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S. HRG. 99-874

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 722

A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

ELY, NV, FEBRUARY 10, 1986
ELKO, NV, FEBRUARY 11, 1986
WINNEMUCCA, NV, FEBRUARY 12, 1986
RENO, NV, FEBRUARY 13, 1986
LAS VEGAS, NV, FEBRUARY 14, 1986

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CONTENTS

Hearings: Page

Ely, NV, February 10, 1986 1
Elko, NV, February 11, 1986 223
Winnemucca, NV, February 12, 1986 345
Reno, NV, February 13, 1986 443
Las Vegas, NV, February 14, 1986 657
S. 722 4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1986

STATEMENTS

Baker, Carl, Baker, NV 28
Baker, J. Dean, Baker, NV 27
Baxter, Mark, Salt Lake City, UT 212
Birak, Donald J., chief mine geologist, Freeport Gold Co 90
Bourn, Michael R., Project coordinator, White Pine Power Project 178
Bryner, Ross L., geography student, University of Utah 212
Bybee, J.M., chairman, White Pine Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee 174
Carver, Richard, Carver Ranch, Nye County, NV 101
Cazier, Jim, Ely, NV 194
Chachas, George, White Pine Hotel/Motel Association 55
Coopersmith, Marshall, vice chairman, White Pine Democratic Central Committee 175
Dean, James C., archeologist/photographer 216
Dickenson, Robert E., president, White Pine County Farm Bureau 26
Doherty, George W., Ely, NV 115
Dory, Patricia, Ely, NV 19
Eldridge, David, White Pine County, NV 28
Ernaut, Nancy J., administrative assistant, Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy 100
Fairman, Gary D., president, White Pine Chamber of Commerce 169
Gardner, Van, vice chairman, Eastern Nevada Livestock group 51
Garland, Cecil, Echo, UT 51
Garrett, Joanne, Baker, NV 175
Griggs, Joseph F., Jr., Baker, NV 126
Guthrie, Tom, executive director, Southern Nevada Supervised Development Co 176
Hanks, Carl, Blue Eagle Ranch, Ely, NV 25
Hansen, Allan, Beryl, UT 71
Hansen, Ferrel D., executive vice president, White Pine Chamber of Commerce 163
Hansen, Lou, Beryl, UT 63
Hatch, Richard K., president, Mt. Moriah Stone, Inc 83
Hecht, Hon. Chic, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada 10
Johnston, Odis, president, New White Pine Sportsman's Club 50
Lampros, John S., chairman, Board of County Commissioners, White Pine County, NV 19
Locke, Sarah A., Ely, NV 97
Locke, Tony, secretary, Eastern Nevada Trappers and Fur Takers 53
Lockley, Rev. Raymond G., pastor, Ely and McGill United Methodist Churches 122
Marcum, Robert, Ely, NV 100

Page

McBeth, J.D., vice president and manager of operations, Carlin Gold Mining Co 72
Millet, Chief Jerry, Western Shoshone National Council 96
Nystrom, Rey 63
O'Callaghan, Michael Neil, Las Vegas, NV 22
Olson, Art, pharmacist, Ely, NV 116
Patton, Ann 67
Price, Barry A., Ely, NV 59
Reed, Don, Ely, NV 195
Sharp, Gerald, Tonopah, NV 193
Sharp, Norman, Ely, NV 193
Siebert, Diane, Ruth, NV 55
Sorensen, Von, president, Nevada Wool Growers Association 29
Spriggs, Gaylyn, Nevada State Assemblywoman 17
Swallow, George N., president, Blue Energy Resources, Inc 30
Swallow, Nancy M., Eastern Nevada Reality, Ely, NV 54
Vucanovich, Hon. Barbara F., a U.S. Representative from the State of Nevada 17
Waite, Dr. Robert Starr, University of Utah 196
White, Barlow N., mayor, Ely, NV 18
Ylst, Ed, Alamo, NV 188
Young, Bert, Ely, NV 71
Young, Robert J., on behalf of the American Petroleum Institute 77

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1986

STATEMENTS

Abegglen, George C., Elko, NV 252
Bergwall, Frank, Carlin, NV 290
Colon, Bob, Elko, NV 308
Corner, D. George, mayor, Elko, NV 227
Dahl, Harvey A., Starr Valley, NV 320
Erickson, Duane, on behalf of the Nevada State Department of Wildlife 230
Gardner, Cliff, president, Elko County Farm Bureau 238
Gardner, Walt, Elko, NV 252
Halton, Nick, executive director, Elko Chamber of Commerce 331
Harney, Corbin, Owyhee, NV 324
Hecht, Hon. Chic, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada 223
Jones, Dr. Roy G., Elko, NV 254
Jones, Kenneth, Lamoille, NV 238
Kien, Dr. Grant T., Elko, NV 302
Lassetter, William 289
Marteney, Wayne S., president, Nevada Land Action Association 239
McColm, Merlin, on behalf of the Elko County Conservation Association 261
McGinty, Robert, Elko, NV 271
Mendive, Vince E., Elko, NV 247
Neff, John E., Ruby Valley, NV 312
Nisbet, William A., Elko, NV 276
Omernik, John, exploration manager, Exxon Co. U.S.A.'s Frontier Project 292
Parks, Julie, Tuscarora, NV 310
Parks, Lois F., Tuscarora, NV 309
Poole, Joseph R., Carlin, NV 322
Porter, Thomas R., vice president, mining operations, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co 287
Price, Dr. Stephen, Elko, NV 324
Putnam, Borden R., exploration geologist 291
Read, Dr. John M., Elko, NV 338
Reed, Robert 311
Rhodes, Dean A., Nevada State Senator 225
Riordan, Michael, Jiggs, NV 328
Risberg, Earl R., Battle Mountain, NV 242
Royer, Joe, Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing, Lamoille, NV 231
Satterthwaite, Deloyd, on behalf of the Nevada Cattleman's Association 253
Schneblin, Robert 309
Skelton, Roberta, Elko, NV 276
Smith, Joan, women's chairman, Elko County Farm Bureau 233
Smith, Roy, chairman, Elko County Commission, Elko, NV 227

Page

Sorensen, Marian, Wells, NV 285
Sorenson, Lloyd, Elko, NV 240
Vucanovich, Hon. Barbara F., a U.S. Representative from the State of Nevada 225
Walthers, Jack, Lamoille, NV 272
Wasner, Alan R., Elko, NV 272

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1986

STATEMENTS

Arrien, Kent, on behalf of the Humboldt County Advisory Board To Manage Wildlife 429
Bagwell, James L., Jr., sheriff, Humboldt County, NV 361
Boggio, Duane, Paradise Valley, NV 386
Cassinelli, David J 432
Christensen, Odin D., Elko, NV 421
Conner, Doug, Winnemucca, NV 435
Craver, Jim, Humboldt County, NV 423
Dufurrena, Linda, photographer and rancher 428
Ebner, Gregory Paul, on behalf of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness 380
Feyerabend, William C., Winnemucca, NV 419
Hammon, Dorothy, on behalf of the Nevada Farm Bureau 371
Hampton, Andy, Battle Mountain, NV 423
Harper, Dan, manager, Pinson Mine 375
Hecht, Hon. Chic, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada 345
Irwin, Tom, geologist and supervisor, Exxon Minerals Co., Reno, NV 388
Kabish, Sally, representative, Northern California-Nevada, Sierra Club 377
Kern, Susan, president-elect, Nevada State Cowbelles 385
Larios, Virgil 424
Licht, Armond J 433
Licht, Stephanie 434
Lucas, Steve, chairman, Winnemucca Unit, Nevada Cattlemen's Association 366
Marvell, John, Nevada District No. 34 Assemblyman 348
Mayberry, Ed, Lovelock, NV 425
Monetero, Frenchie 438
Piquet, Tebeau, chairman, Humboldt County Commissioners and vice president, Nevada Association of County Officials 348
Rowe, Winthrop A., senior supervisory geologist, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co., Reno, NV 409
Scott, Warren J., mayor, Winnemucca, NV 349
Shepherd, Jim, vice president, Winnemucca Business Association 426
Sheppard, Michael Clay, Michael Clay Constructors 373
Smith, Don, on behalf of Citizens for Mining 408
Snodgrass, Stan, security and environmental officer, Nevada Gold Mining, Inc 422
Stewart, Fred, Humboldt County, NV 427
Stewart, Leslie J., on behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association 367
Stewart, Marie, Paradise Valley, NV 371
Swindle, Bill 437
Taylor, Darrell L., Humboldt County Commissioner 353
Tipton, Frosty 384
Tipton, Ruth, deputy recorder-auditor, Humboldt County, NV 440
Tryon, Don 381
Ugalde, Sammye, Humboldt County Commissioner 360
Vetter, Walter 425
Wilson, Sean, Winnemucca, NV 436
Wotruba, Nancy J., on behalf of Women in Mining 387

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1986

STATEMENTS

Alastuey, Steven 607
Arnold, Fred, Reno, NV 554
Bennett, Barbara, Reno, NV 636
Berkbigler, Marsha, on behalf of Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co 490
Bodenhofer, Karl, Virginia City, NV 622

	Page
Borda, Billy	520
Bowers, Connie	530
Bowers, Ray	599
Bradley, Pete, Reno, NV	630
Bradley, Susan	633
Bradmills, Fred	583
Bryan, Hon. Richard H., Governor, State of Nevada	502
Buchanan, Kelvin, chairman, Nevada Trust for Public Land	514
Burnett, Loren	585
Burnett, Val	628
Byington, Dallas, president, Nevada Cattlemen's Association	471
Byrom, Jack, vice president, engineering, Sierra Pacific Power Co	542
Cawthorne, Audrey	597
Cole, Mary	511
Colvin, Ben, Esmeralda Board of County Commissioners	469
Copeland, Fred, Reno, NV	600
Cowperthwaite, David, on behalf of the League of Women Voters	575
Crittenden, Bob, Reno, NV	596
Curti, Hal	487
Dahl, Elizabeth	518
Danner, Donald C	584
Davie, Brian, senior research analyst, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau	460
Del Giudice, Paula, president, Nevada Wildlife Federation	512
Doescher, Kasey	525
Donaldson, Neal, Reno, NV	586
Doulton, Dennis, Reno, NV	535
Downer, Alice Gochcrock, Lovelock, NV	587
Downer, Craig, Minden, NV	588
Downer, Robert C., Lovelock, NV	587
Fields, Tina	578
Fortney, Ken, Reno, NV	597
Fulkerson, Bob, director, Citizen Alert	592
Fulstone, David, president, Nevada Farm Bureau	472
Gastanaga, Eugene T., Reno, NV	480
Gastanaga, Jose, Reno, NV	519
Gerdes, Gene L., president, Nevada Trappers Association	599
Ghiglieri, Dennis, Reno, NV	595
Gibble, Walter, Carson City, NV	536
Glover, Doris	648
Gregory, Tom	634
Hampton, Dave, on behalf of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness	510
Hampton, Michael, Carson City, NV	510
Harvey, Robert	574
Hecht, Hon. Chic, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada	443
Heggness, Beth, Reno, NV	528
Henderson, Don, research planner, Resource Concepts	486
Highton, Jake, Reno, NV	533
Hocker, Steve, Reno, NV	641
Hollingsworth, Ed, president, Nevada Miners and Prospectors Association	489
Howard, Kent	593
Hulse, Jim	647
Inness, Gary, Reno, NV	635
Johnson, Phillip	596
Kelley, Barbara	526
Kersten, Ann R., Reno, NV	639
Kersten, Betty, Reno, NV	640
Kersten, Earl	640
Kilburn, Mark, Reno, NV	531
Laird, Nancy, Washoe Valley, NV	622
Lemons, Edward J	594
Leslie, Sheila, as presented by David Orr	632
Lewis, Pat Hardy	627
Lybarger, Steve	642
McClary, Eric, Foresta Institute	576
McClellan, Marian, Pershing County Commissioner	460
McEneny, Meri, Crystal Bay, NV	635
McKay, Brian, attorney general, State of Nevada	453
Meierdierck, Jay, vice president, Lahontan Audubon Society, Inc	513

Page

Metko, Maria, Reno, NV 626
Miles, David 623
Miller, Glen 522
Miller, M. Douglas, past commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 8617 551
Mitchell, Ray, Virginia City, NV 580
Mobert, Roy, Jarbidge, NV 603
Momerak, Gaye, Reno, NV 524
Morrison, John 624
Nachlinger, Jan, vice president, Northern Nevada Native Plant Society 577
Norris, Tom, Battle Mountain, NV 497
Peppin, Bill, on behalf of Friends of Mount Rose 621
Peterson, Kirk, Reno, NV 631
Purkey, Tom, Reno, NV 637
Quinn, Brian, Reno, NV 638
Quinn, Connie 648
Randall, Joanne, Reno, NV 520
Reid, Hon. Harry M., a U.S. Representative from the State of Nevada 446
Rhoads, Dean A., Nevada State Senator 455
Richmond, John, Reno, NV 634
Robinson, Gayle 645
Rugg, Ed, manager, Dome Mines 501
Sanchez, Joe, on behalf of the Western Shoshone National Council 515
Sanders, Catherine, Reno, NV 638
Sargent, John 646
Schley, Susan 601
Sferrazza, Pete, mayor, Reno, NV 469
Shpall, Casey, on behalf of the Mountain States Legal Foundation 516
Shyde, Vernon 655
Sill, Marjorie, on behalf of the Toiyabe Chapter, the Sierra Club 650
Simonin, Simon 642
Smith, Patty, Sparks, NV 629
Smith, Ross, Reno, NV 537
Snyder, John, chairman, Public Lands Advisory Committee, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies 532
Spoo, Jim, mayor, Sparks, NV 470
Strickland, Rose, Reno, NV 521
Swain, Patricia 623
Tanner, Karen, as presented by Peter Bradley 607
Taylor, Ken 601
Townsend, Gail 524
Tumbleson, Juanita 528
Tyler, Scott 643
Vawter, Russ, Sparks, NV 529
Vinyard, Gary, associate professor, University of Nevada 579
Vucanovich, Hon. Barbara F., a U.S. Representative from the State of Nevada 445
Walker, Michael 649
Walthers, Norman 602
Williams, Arlene, Sparks, NV 536
Winn, Howard, Reno, NV 602
Wishart, Kathryn 532
Woodin, Terry 625
Worley, R. Edwin 644
Young, Allan, president, Nevada Mining Association 488

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1986

STATEMENTS

Agonia, Barbara, Las Vegas, NV 803
Allison, Daniel, Las Vegas, NV 858
Anthony, Dart, president, Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organizations 713
Bagan, Thomas, Esmeralda County, NV 748
Bailey, Lorraine, Las Vegas, NV 825
Barbuck, Walter, Las Vegas, NV 779
Barnard, Chris, Las Vegas, NV 786

	Page
Barney, Joanne, Las Vegas, NV	806
Bauer, Ann, Indian Springs, NV	810
Bell, Kathleen B., State secretary, League of Women Voters of Nevada	804
Bilbray, James, Nevada State Senator	674
Bilyeu, Byron, Nevada State Assemblyman, Elko, NV	660
Bird, Mark, Henderson, NV	768
Bobertz, Dick, Las Vegas, NV	847
Booth, Howard G., Las Vegas, NV	885
Bowers, Andy, Lake Tahoe, NV	765
Buckley, Frank, Las Vegas, NV	810
Butcher, Russell D., southwest representative, National Parks Conservation Association	718
Butler, Thorne, Las Vegas, NV	909
Cashman, Jim, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, NV	702
Cinkoske, Cheri, Las Vegas, NV	782
Clark, Rosalie, Las Vegas, NV	809
Clawson, Kale, Las Vegas, NV	802
Clawson, Terry, Las Vegas, NV	802
Costello, Ed, Camp Our Lady of the Snows, Las Vegas, NV	765
Cox, Alan D., regional manager, environmental affairs, Homestake Mining Co.	755
Davis, Gene, Grassmere, ID	789
de la Garza, William, Las Vegas, NV	768
DenDooven, Gweneth, Las Vegas, NV	849
Devis, Lance, Las Vegas, NV	789
Dingle, Pat, Las Vegas, NV	829
Douglas, Geneva, chair, Friends of Nevada Wilderness	726
Douglas, Richard, Las Vegas, NV	830
Duncan, Tom, Las Vegas, NV	905
Earnest, Donald F., chief geologist, Sunshine Mining Co., Silver Peak, NV	798
Edwards, Elbert, Boulder City, NV	780
Edwards, S. Mahlon, Las Vegas, NV	844
Escobedo, Anne, Evergreen Alliance of Southern Nevada, Mount Charleston, NV	764
Evans, Roy B., Las Vegas, NV	838
Faust, Mahlon E., Lake Mead Boatowners Association, Las Vegas, NV	706
Fitzgibbons, Roberta, Las Vegas, NV	849
Forrester, Maffy, Las Vegas, NV	766
Furtek, Bob, North Las Vegas, NV	907
Gerber, Grant, chairman, Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy, Elko, NV	701
Goldbery, Clarice, Las Vegas, NV	781
Grandstaff, Randal, on behalf of the Nevada Alpine Club	836
Ham, Jane, assemblywoman, Clark County, NV	680
Hansen, Joel, Las Vegas, NV	834
Hansen, Homer, Citizens for Responsible Government, Las Vegas, NV	700
Harris, C. Gail, Joint Study Committee on the Environment	793
Hawes, George, Las Vegas, NV	908
Hayes, Karen, county commissioner, Las Vegas, NV	679
Hecht, Hon. Chic, a U.S. Senator from the State of Nevada	657
Hedge, Patricia, Wilderness Society, San Francisco, CA	714
Hiatt, John, Redrock Audubon Society, Las Vegas, NV	827
Hollis, Charles G., Southern Nye County Miners and Prospectors Association	749
Hoppes, Michael, Boulder City, NV	906
Horn, Charles, assemblyman, Clark County, NV	679
Hunter, Carol, Las Vegas, NV	792
Huth, Cynthia, Las Vegas, NV	904
Jackson, Lorri, Las Vegas, NV	904
Jones, Jane Perry, Mount Charleston, NV	909
Joyal, Phil, Jarbidge, NV	826
Kauffman, Gay, Las Vegas, NV	835
Kennedy, Greg, Las Vegas, NV	905
Kent, Gary H., Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Las Vegas, NV	702
Koch, Glade, Las Vegas, NV	847
Lamb, Jim, Las Vegas, NV	805
LeCoque, Archie, Las Vegas, NV	855
Little, Pat, assemblywoman, North Las Vegas, NV	681
London, Donna, Las Vegas, NV	831

	Page
Lusk, Lucille, chairman, school board, Las Vegas, NV	681
Maichle, Robert W., on behalf of the Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada	831
Markoff, Mike, Republican Club of Southern Nevada	834
McClure, Florence, Las Vegas, NV	898
McDevitt, Vickie, Las Vegas, NV	797
McNeil, Mary	779
Mikulich, Joe, Las Vegas, NV	763
Nance, Judy, Las Vegas, NV	856
Nelson, Lorelle, Las Vegas, NV	898
Papas, Harry, Las Vegas, NV	829
Parr, Becky, Sierra Club, Las Vegas, NV	819
Patchin, Steven, Las Vegas, NV	857
Phillips, Shirley, Henderson, NV	806
Piore, P. Del, Las Vegas, NV	824
Pitchford, Ann, Las Vegas, NV	781
Reid, Kenneth P., Las Vegas, NV	903
Reid, Landra, Las Vegas, NV	687
Reyburn, Richard L., executive director, Nevada Department of Minerals	693
Roberts, Mary, Henderson, NV	804
Robertson, Terri, Las Vegas, NV	897
Roederer, Thomas A., Deputy Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture	689
Sagel, Lois, Las Vegas, NV	808
Salsman, Charles W., operations superintendent, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co.	750
Schallawski, Richard, Boulder City, NV	848
Scott, Sandra Moore, Reno, NV	836
Sharp, Treva Christenberry, Las Vegas, NV	828
Stowater, Shelly, Las Vegas, NV	854
Stucker, Mitchell, Las Vegas, NV	856
Sumin, Richard A., vice president, Battle Mountain Operations, Battle Mountain Gold Co	743
Surick, Lynn, Las Vegas, NV	903
Tanner, Zolan, vice president, Nevada Trappers Association	807
Thompson, Edna, Las Vegas, NV	828
Van Ee, J. Jeffrey, Nevada Outdoor Recretation Association, Inc	715
Vazana, Liza, Las Vegas, NV	791
Vincent, Bill, public coordinator, Citizen Alert	710
Wagner, Ina, Las Vegas, NV	825
Warren, Elizabeth, Las Vegas, NV	811
Warren, Robert, executive director, Nevada Mining Association	742
Weinfeld, Buddy H., Las Vegas, NV	791
Werst, Therese, Las Vegas, NV	854
Wilson, Marian J., Henderson, NV	797
Wright, Bob	790

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

Ely, NV.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Ely, NV, Hon. Chic Hecht presiding.

Present: Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. Would the first panel please come up and take their seats?

The first panel is Assemblywoman Gaylyn Spriggs, Mayor Barlow White, Chairman John Lampros, Commissioner Patricia Dory, and Hon. Michael O'Callaghan.

I now call this hearing to order. I want to thank all of you who are here this morning, those of you who will be presenting testimony, as well as those who will not be testifying but who, by your presence here, are showing us all how important the wilderness and national park issues are to you.

I am very pleased to be holding this hearing in Ely today. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has a limited budget for hearings such as this, and there are many duties to keep a U.S. Senator busy in Washington, but I decided many months ago that the financial and time constraints are clearly outweighed by the importance of giving the people of Nevada the fullest opportunty to express their views on wilderness and a national park. I have heard quite often from organizations such as the Nevada Department of Minerals and the Sierra Club, but this is my chance to hear from the people of Nevada.

I also want to publicly express my appreciation to Senator McClure who is the head of the Energy Committee which has jurisdiction over all interior matters who has graciously allowed us to have these five hearings in Nevada.

This is the first of five hearings I am holding each day this week across the State. Since each hearing location is several hundred miles from the next, and many people wish to testify, it is necessary for each person testifying to limit their oral remarks to 3 minutes. Written statements will be included in the official hearing record, and will be given equal weight with oral testimony.

In order to make sure we have a full 3 minutes for each witness, I will generally try to limit my questions here and now, and instead will contact you later with any questions I might have after having an opportunity to reflect on the testimony.

We are here in the State to begin the legislative process in the Senate Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Committee that will decide the general uses of the national forests in Nevada. The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area, and use decisions.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit the oral testimony to 3 minutes. I ask that you withhold applause and comments as it will cut into the witnesses' time.

Any additional materials, maps, et cetera, you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington. The hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can submit a copy to my offices in Las Vegas or Reno, or the subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition. Please summarize your statements.

There will be a printed hearing record of all five hearings which you can obtain by filling out a self-addressed sticker at the table out in the lobby. A copy will be sent to you in a few months. Witnesses are asked to please hold on to your written testimony until your panel is called to the witness table. We ask all witnesses to look at the order in which they are scheduled to testify and, if you are in the next panel, as the panels are called, come to the front row seats. It's just like a baseball game, a panel testifying, one on deck, the rest in the audience. The lights are used to time the witnesses. Green means go, yellow means 1 minute remaining, red means complete your sentence or thought and stop.

Before we get started, I want to set the record straight on three points:

First, there has been a lot of confusion about the national park proposal. I will not be taking a firm position on this issue until I have heard from all of you and the other Nevadans who will be testifying this week. You should know that you are not going to be forced to choose between either a national park or wilderness. You do have a third option: Keeping things as they are now. If the people of Nevada want to keep the land just as it is now, I will work to make that happen.

Second, the national forest wilderness controversy will not be the last time Nevadans deal with the wilderness issue. This is not the last chance we will have to create wilderness in our State, and it is not the last time we will have to examine the appropriateness of wilderness designation for our land. Even as we speak, the Bureau of Land Management is busy developing its own wilderness proposals, reviewing millions of acres of public land for possible wilderness status. The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering another

million acres or so for wilderness status. Even the National Park Service may have a modest proposal of its own.

Third, as you all probably know, I cosponsored one of the wilderness bills before the Congress. This bill took a deliberately conservative approach to wilderness designation in our State. It has been endorsed by most of the State's county commissions and by the State Legislature. I think this indicates that the bill has some public support in Nevada, but I am not locked in concrete about making some adjustments, either way, if that is the will of the people of Nevada.

[The text of S. 722 follows:]

II

99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 722

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 18), 1985

Mr. LAXALT (for himself and Mr. HECHT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—SHORT TITLE, FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 101. This Act may be cited as the "Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985".

DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

SEC. 102. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) certain areas of undeveloped national forest lands in the State of Nevada possess outstanding natural characteristics which give them high values as wilderness and will, if properly preserved, be an enduring resource of wilderness for the benefit of the American people;

(2) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System of Nevada have identified those areas which, on the basis of their landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location, will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share of a quality National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System in Nevada have also identified those areas which should be available for multiple uses other than wilderness, subject to the Forest Service's land management planning process and the provisions of this Act.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) designate certain National Forest System lands in Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic re-

sources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people; and

(2) insure that certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada be made available for uses other than wilderness in accordance with applicable national forest laws and planning procedures and the provisions of this Act.

TITLE II

ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

SEC. 201. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890), the following National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada, as generally depicted on maps appropriately referenced herein, are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which comprise approximately thirty-two thousand acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mount Charleston Wilderness Area—Proposed", dated March 1985, and which shall be known as the Mount Charleston Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately twenty-three thousand acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Jarbidge Additions to the Jarbidge Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1985, and which are hereby incorporated in and which shall be deemed a part of the Jarbidge Wilderness as designated by section 3(a) of the Wilderness Act;

(3) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest, which comprise approximately seventy-three thousand acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mount Moriah Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1985, and which shall be known as the Mt. Moriah Wilderness; and

(4) certain lands in the Inyo National Forest, which comprise approximately eight thousand nine hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Boundary Peak Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1985, and which shall be known as the Boundary Peak Wilderness.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES

SEC. 202. As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each area described in title II with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular

Affairs of the House of Representatives, and each such map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPLICATION OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

SEC. 203. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designed by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Wilderness Act, except that any reference in the provisions of the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

TITLE III—RELEASE OF LANDS FOR MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF ROADLESS AREAS

SEC. 301. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of national forest roadless areas in Nevada

and the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to national forest lands in States other than Nevada, such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada;

(2) with respect to the national forest lands in the State of Nevada which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d) upon enactment of this Act, that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–378), as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–588), to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be

required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Nevada reviewed in such final environmental statement or referred to in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Nevada are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness

designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to:

(1) Those National Forest System roadless areas, or portions thereof in the State of Nevada, which were identified by unit plans listed at the end of this sub-

paragraph, which are not designated as wilderness by this Act:

National forest	Unit plan
Humboldt	Santa Rosa
Humboldt	Ruby Mtn./E. Humboldt
Toiyabe	Mt. Charleston
Toiyabe	Central Nevada

(2) National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Nevada which are less than five thousand acres in size.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 401. (a) Within the wilderness areas designated by this Act, the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary concerned deems necessary, as long as such regulations, policies, and practices fully conform with and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas as such intent is expressed in section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and section 108 of Public Law 96–560.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Agriculture regarding livestock grazing in National Forest System wilderness areas in Nevada in order to insure that such policies, practices, and regulations fully conform with

and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas, as such intent is expressed in this Act.

(c) The use of motorized equipment for the maintenance and care of livestock and supporting facilities for historical purposes related to grazing activities is permissible in wilderness areas in the State of Nevada. Such use of motorized equipment shall be expressly authorized in individual grazing permits or allotment management plans for the area involved, or by agreement with the wilderness management agency.

(d) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least every five years thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a report detailing the progress made by the Forest Service in carrying out the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section.

STATE WATER ALLOCATION AUTHORITY

SEC. 402. (a) As provided in section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from Nevada water laws.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the exercise of valid water rights as provided under Nevada State law, nor shall it constitute an express or implied reservation of water rights in favor of the Federal Government.

STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

SEC. 403. As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Nevada with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Nevada.

PROHIBITION OF BUFFER ZONES

SEC. 404. (a) Congress does not intend that the designation of wilderness areas in the State of Nevada lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within any wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

(b) Any air quality redesignation shall remain the prerogative of the State as provided in section 164(a) of the Clean Air Act.

(c) It is the intent of Congress that wilderness designation shall not in itself provide for protection under the visibility provision or any other provision of the Clean Air Act beyond that provided for adjacent public lands managed for multiple use.

MINERAL RESOURCES

SEC. 405. (a) In furtherance of section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act and the policies of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act (94 Stat. 2305), the Secretary of the Interior shall continue to make

assessments of the mineral potential of national forest wilderness areas in the State of Nevada on a recurring basis, consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation, in order to expand the data base with respect to the mineral potential of such lands.

(b) The use of motorized equipment for transportation, construction, and earth moving purposes and the construction of facilities related to development and mining of valid mining claims located prior to enactment of this Act is permissible in wilderness areas in Nevada. Reasonable access by road may be permitted.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

SEC. 406. (a) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit motorized access and road maintenance by local municipalities for those minimum maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of whatsoever watershed facilities currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in such wilderness areas within the State of Nevada, subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) Within the wilderness areas designated by this Act, the provisions of the Wilderness Act shall not be construed to prevent the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, climatological, geologic, or telecommunications facilities, or any combination of the foregoing, or limited motor-

ized access to such facilities when nonmotorized access means are not reasonably available or when time is of the essence, subject to such strict environmental safeguards as the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior deem desirable, where such facilities or access are essential to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation purposes, or for conducting essential surveys and tests.

(c) As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act, such measures may be taken within wilderness areas designated by this Act as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to applicable laws and such additional reasonable conditions as the Secretary deems desirable. This shall include the use of herbicides for plant and noxious weed control and the practice of reseeding a badly damaged area.

PREDATOR CONTROL AUTHORITY

SEC. 407. Nothing in this Act shall limit or affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the Federal Government, in cooperation with the State of Nevada, with respect to predator control activities in the national forests in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. We are privileged to have with us today Congresswoman Vucanovich who is also sponsoring a bill in the House, and she has a short statement to make.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you who have come to express your opinions on the Nevada wilderness issue and the proposed Great Basin National Park. But, as Senator Hecht says, he's not going to be dealing with that today or at least until he's heard all about the wilderness issue.

I'd like to thank my chairman for allowing me to come and listen and participate in this hearing. This is really a Senate subcommittee hearing, but I'm glad to have an opportunity to come and listen, and I'm really delighted that he came to hold these series of hearings on these important issues.

The people in this room and the surrounding communities are the Nevadans who will be directly affected by this proposal and your words, I'm sure, will be given the utmost consideration because this is your home and our home. Many of you are ranchers, miners, hunters, businessmen, and concerned citizens who have a stake in the way Congress treats your land.

We do have an extensive witness list before us, so I'm not going to take any more of your important time. I thank you again for coming, and I certainly thank Senator Hecht for coming.

Senator HECHT. Just some short introductions.

Tony, would you turn around, please?

Tony Bevinetto from the Senate Energy Committee. Kelton Abbott is here representing Senator Laxalt. Allan Hanssen is here, Congresswoman Vucanovich; Scott is with me, he'll be sitting right here. Bill—where are you, Bill? I know you're in the audience. And Patty Caparett is in the audience. I want to acknowledge her, too.

Now, without further ado, are you gentlemen organized?

OK, our first witness, Assemblywoman Gaylyn Spriggs. It's good to see you.

STATEMENT OF GAYLYN SPRIGGS, NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Mrs. SPRIGGS. Thank you. Good morning. I'm Gaylyn Spriggs, Nevada State assemblywoman.

As a State representative, I want to thank you for taking the time to come and listen to what we in Nevada have to say, and I know you're a Nevadan too, and I really appreciate it.

My district covers 36,000 square miles, nearly half the State, and includes many of the proposed wilderness areas. As vice chairman of the natural resources committee, I have heard extensive testimony and have personally visited many of the proposed wilderness areas.

During the 1985 session, the Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1, urging Congress to limit wilderness designation to 136,900 acres and naming the preferred areas. This res-

olution passed 39 to 3 in the assembly and 20 to 1 in the senate and was signed by our Governor.

There are sound reasons for this resolution. After evaluation of all the proposed study areas, some were found to have extensive roads, active mines, ranches, grazing right, and known mineral potential.

The example I would like to cite is the Excelsior Range which is still in dispute. This proposed area has over 400 mining claims with roads to all, 12 patented mines, 1 cattle ranch, has State Highway 31 running through it, and includes the Borealis Mine which produces more than $20 million per year in gold and is Mineral County's largest taxpayer.

Most of the 27 communities in my district were founded because of mining.

The Federal Government owns more than 80 percent of the land in this district, which makes it difficult to diversify our economy. Mining and ranching are our mainstays, and we do not feel that these are dishonorable professions.

For several years all of the special interest groups met and finally hammered out a compromise which was forwarded to Congress in the form of the Hecht, Laxalt and Vucanovich bill. This is a critical issue for Nevada. Our economic future depends on it.

I urge you to please consider the wishes of the half of the State I represent, and I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Just one question. The vote was 39 to 3, and what was it in the senate?

Mrs. SPRIGGS. 20 to 1.

Senator HECHT. In the senate 20 to 1. Thank you very much. Barbara, do you have a question?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I would just like to say this bill was signed by our Governor; is that correct?

Mrs. SPRIGGS. Yes, it was.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Mayor White.

STATEMENT OF BARLOW N. WHITE, MAYOR, ELY, NV

Mayor WHITE. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, I'm Barlow White, mayor of the city of Ely. In 1960 the proposal for the Great Basin National Park was defeated. At that time the convincing arguments against the park were the same as those against it today. No. 1, mining would be destroyed. No. 2, grazing would be abolished. No. 3, the economic value of the park was being overstated by those for it.

Now, 25 years later, what are the facts?

Today the population of White Pine County is 7,640 people; in 1960 it was 9,808. In 1960 the mining work force was 1,411, today less than 400. Agricultural work force in 1960 was 227, now 150.

So, some conclusions. The Great Basin National Park was defeated in 1960 with the promise that its creation would ruin mining and agriculture, but what are the facts? In the 25 years since, mining has decreased by over 1,000 jobs, agriculture has declined by 77 jobs, and the county has lost 2,168 citizens. The economic

plight of this area has been well documented. The mining and agriculture have indeed declined without the Great Basin National Park to bother them. Now is the time for a change. The City Council of Ely feels that the Great Basin National Park will be of economic value to Ely and to White Pine County; therefore, the council unanimously supports its creation.

The combination of the White Pine Historical Railroad Steam Engine and the Great Basin National Park can make White Pine County a major destination tourist attraction.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Mayor. Chairman John Lampros.

STATEMENT OF JOHN S. LAMPROS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WHITE PINE COUNTY, NV

Mr. LAMPROS. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, nice to have you here.

I'm chairman of the board of county commissioners of White Pine County.

It is the consensus of the board that prior to advocating the siting of a national park in White Pine County, consideration to the park's impacts upon local government budgets should be addressed.

At this time, White Pine County is financially unable to maintain operations of current programs and mandated services. Needless to say, the county could not contemplate additional expenditures for such services in a quickly expanding community.

Indepth research should be done to assess these impacts and help to alleviate them prior to a final decision being made upon siting the park at Mount Wheeler. This assessment should also include the impacts a national park and a wilderness area would have upon the agricultural, mining, and the recreational uses. Strong consideration should be given to the effect it would have upon potential industrial growth and possible economic development to the surrounding communities.

The position of the county commission is to work toward an equitable solution for all people in White Pine County. At this time, I would like to request that you seriously consider further research so proponents and opponents alike benefit by your decision, and when it's made, we have a unified White Pine County.

Thank you on behalf of the board of county commissioners and the residents of White Pine County for the opportunity to express our opinion on this matter; and for you, Senator, and your party to have taken the time to come to our area.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Patricia Dory.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA DORY, ELY, NV

Ms. DORY. Good morning, Senator, Congresswoman.

My name is Patricia Dory. I am a broker-salesperson in association with Guy Gulley Real Estate and a co-owner of Eastern Nevada Broadcasting, a taxpayer in White Pine County and native of White Pine County.

I'm also an elected official of White Pine County serving as a member of the board of county commissioners. I would also like to state that my remarks reflect my own personal opinion.

I wish to go on record as being in favor of establishing a national park in White Pine County.

White Pine County has experienced an economic downturn for the past 4 years. Historically our county has been dependent almost entirely on the ranching, mining, and tourism industries for our economic base. We have suffered, along with the rancher and the miner, with the vagaries of the marketplace in relation to the price and demand for red meat and minerals.

I recognize that the demand for red meats has declined while the cost of production has increased, creating a real hardship for the cattle and sheep industries.

I also recognize that the price of minerals is stagnant. Testimony to this is the shutown of operations at the Taylor Mine a year ago last December, throwing approximately 70 miners out of work; the shutdown of Amselco Minerals Exploration Division, forcing relocation of approximately 28 employees as well as a reduction in force at the Alligator Ridge Gold Mine and the prospect of the mine being depleted within the next year to 18 months.

Kennecott Minerals, Nevada Mines Division, has totally ceased operation in White Pine County and presently employs less than 10 persons at the McGill location.

We have seen what happens when the economic base of a community is limited to one or two industries, and what can happen when these industries are devasted by the national and world markets.

The Economic Development Administration and the State of Nevada have poured approximately $1 million into White Pine County to assist us in diversifying our industry. We have marketed our industrial park nationwide. The results of these efforts have yet to bear fruit, but the effort continues with a lot of volunteer hours being spent by dedicated people in our community.

A national park at Mount Wheeler will provide all of White Pine County with another economic benefit, marketing White Pine County worldwide and exposing the assets of White Pine County to the world. The benefit to stabilizing a part of the local economy and enhancing our tourism industry is incalculable.

I recognize that with all the benefits to our area that a national park would bring, there will be some impacts on the livestock and mining industry. I would like to recommend that the livestock producers, miners, and local businessmen, as well as the sportsmen and trappers, join forces to negotiate with the Secretary and the subcommittee to alleviate some of the negative impacts of a national park.

Along with many other rural Nevadans, I would like to recommend that the national park bill and the Nevada wilderness bill be treated as two separate proposals, that either one or the other prevail or fail on the basis of their individual merits.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views to you directly at this hearing.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I just have one short question, I want to go on.

John have the White Pine County Commissioners ever drafted anything formal 100 percent in agreement on this?

Mr. LAMPROS. Senator, we had a vote of 3 to 2 for the park, but as chairman of the commission, we made the consensus that we should approach the impacts because of our budget. You have to understand that right now, financially, we are in dire straits, and we have decided that if we could address the issue of financial impacts to the areas and get the opponents and the proponents together and see if we could work out an equitable arrangement, then the commission would be supportive.

Senator HECHT. Congressman Udall, who is certainly one of the most respected conservationalists in America, has been on the House committee for many, many years. In the House hearing he brought up that it was very, very unusual that people in Washington would put this down someone's throat without hearing from the local entities first. Barbara, were you at that hearing?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes, I was.

Sanator HECHT. I was not at the hearing. Do you have anything you want to add to that?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. He felt very concerned that all of a sudden, the national park had been made part of the wilderness without any discussion with the local people, and I think that there are people who feel, and I feel strongly, that one and the other should be separate. I don't think they should be put together in the bill, which has been done in the House at the moment.

It has not come to the floor yet, and I hope that we are able to get those two issues separated. It should not be an either/or decision.

Mr. LAMPROS. I feel that's a good way, too, Congresswoman, but I feel that if we have to have both, and this is my opinion, and I'm sure we're going to get a wilderness——

Senator HECHT. First of all, this is America, you don't have to have anything.

Mr. LAMPROS. That's right. That's true, but we also know otherwise. We will get a wilderness, I'm sure; but if we are to get a wilderness, I would rather have a national park because we need the economic supply to the county.

Having mountains and mountains of wilderness means nothing out here. To have wilderness and a national park, I would advocate because a national park would bring some income to the area.

Senator Hecht. Just personally, the way I view things, I'd wait until the local county commissioners and the mayor have a unified position, then that gives us more of a chance to act on it in Washington. When I go to the Senate committee, I can say they're in agreement or they're not in agreement, and it makes quite a bit of difference, and that's what Congressman Seiberling said about the whole wilderness issue. It's not what you put into wilderness; it's a fact that the congressional delegation has to get together, and unless we get together, we can't pass any bill out of the House or the Senate.

Mr. LAMPROS. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. So personally, I'm always happy to hear from the local county commissioners how you feel about it—so continue to keep us informed at all times.

Mr. LAMPROS. We most certainly will.

Senator HECHT. I'm remiss in one thing, the introductions. Would members of my staff that are out here please stand up, so if anyone has any questions they know where to direct them. All my staff is with me. Just if you have anything, you can come to them.

Barbara, do you have anything?

Mr. VUCANOVICH. Just one other point about the wilderness and the national park.

It's the first time that a national park has ever been proposed in a wilderness designation. It did happen in Alaska but, as a general rule, it has never been included in a wilderness bill, so it is a first, and it's something that we have to deal with very carefully.

Senator HECHT. Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see Mike. The honorable Mike O'Callaghan. I didn't see Mike.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. Right here. That's a mistake on your part.

My name is Michael Neil O'Callaghan. I'm the son of former Gov. Mike O'Callaghan. My name is Michael Neil O'Callaghan.

Senator HECHT. I apologize to you. I know your father very well, and I have great admiration and respect for him. I was expecting Mike. I'm sorry.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. It's a common mistake.

Senator HECHT. That happens when you have a famous father.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL NEIL O'CALLAGHAN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. Right.

I'm from Las Vegas, NV. I'm a deputy district attorney. I come here on my own behalf.

I've been a resident of the State of Nevada for 30 years. All my brothers and sisters have been born in the State of Nevada. I have a particular concern in this particular case because of an open letter to Nevadans written by Congresswoman Vucanovich where she states that the preservation of the 137,000 acres proposed by your bill and her bill were proposed for two reasons, one being that those are the best wilderness areas. I'm in full agreement with that. I'm for a wilderness area, and I'm for preserving those 137,000 acres.

However, the particular concern for me is the second reason she states in this open letter. That secondary consideration was the knowledge that at some time there would be pressure from environmentalists able to make their move through eastern Congressmen on the subcommittee to expand the number of wilderness designations in Nevada to a further extent.

This tells me that this is in fact a conservative approach, it is a direct response to the environmentalists' approach which recommended 1.5 million acres to be preserved wilderness area.

I'm against the 1.5 million acres that was initially proposed in the Seiberling bill. The Seiberling bill is dead, and I think a moderate approach in the situation would be under Harry Reid's bill, H.R. 3302. I think that is a legitimate option in this particular case.

I do believe that the 137,000 acres should be preserved, but I do believe that the Harry Reid bill goes even further and protects the

interests of the State of Nevada, and I do have particular interests in this particular case.

There have been several issues that have been brought up over the past several months regarding the Harry Reid bill, and those have been designated by Harry Reid as myths. I believe that those are myths. Some of those I shall mention here very quickly.

One of them is grazing rights. Specifically under the bill, grazing rights are protected. That would be in the law, and it's presently in the law right now. Any discussion regarding the grazing rights under those circumstances should be brought out. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that in fact that bill also excludes deterioration of the grazing rights which they would presently have.

At the present time, the areas proposed under H.R. 3302 are so remote and rugged that any use of vehicles in those areas is virtually impossible.

The farmers would be able to use certain motorized equipment but not on a daily basis.

The second issue deals with mining. Now, that is a touchy issue at this particular time, however, in this county, you can see the results of that mining which has taken place and, as mentioned by the mayor, in this situation you can see exactly what could happen down the line. I propose that the miners in this State have enough of a State for them to do mining, and they've got 70 or 80 percent of the park area, as it is, and they've got another 87 percent of the State.

Another issue that came up is water rights. That is another important issue, and one of the problems that's come up in Colorado is that Federal rights have taken over the private rights of water. That will not happen in this case in this State because the proposal under H.R. 3302 deals with mountains—that is the beginning of the water shed, that is the beginning of lakes, the rivers, et cetera. The private rights will not be affected at all because it relates back to State rights. In Colorado it was different because there were upstream users and the Federal Government was a downstream user.

I shall end this in a moment.

There's no upstream users under H.R. 3302, and that is of particular importance in this case because that's the distinction between Colorado, and that is a distinction that has merit in this particular case.

Here in Nevada, as proposed under H.R. 3302, there are no upstream private owners of water rights. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. One question I want to ask you to clarify.

You mentioned you're in favor of the Reid bill. The Reid bill, as introduced, was about 700,000 acres, but the Reid bill as amended and reported is about 1,100,000. Which one are you in favor of?

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. Well, first of all, I'm almost positive that it's less than 800,000 acres. It's not 1 million.

And, second of all, it is not a final form. It is not in final form right now. There is a debate over which areas are going to be included and which areas are going to be excluded. In fact, it is such a volatile situation right now, the dynamics of the situation could change.

For example, the original bill as proposed included the park or the basin here where it had wilderness area. When it went through

committee, it was my understanding that that was excluded and, as far as Ely is concerned, the national park is a part of that proposal.

However, I guess when the panel was badgering back and forth and giving and taking, they included some other areas in the State. There's still debate going on in that regard and I believe in the final form it will probably be less than 800,000 acres and not the million acres. The million acres that you're talking about——

Senator HECHT. 1,100,000. I was just told by staff that it was reported at 1,100,000.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. Yes, but what I'm saying is that it's my understanding that there's still debate going on, and there's still plenty of room for change at this particular time. These areas will become important because the State of Nevada——

Senator HECHT. I'm just told that we have no word from Congressman Seiberling that a compromise is in order at all.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. Just one second.

Senator HECHT. Sure.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. There is one mistake that I see right here. This is Harry Reid's bill. Seiberling's bill is dead.

Senator HECHT. Seiberling's bill was 1,400,000 acres, so I was just rounding it off.

Mr. O'CALLAGHAN. So was I.

Senator HECHT. I would just like to bring that out so the people in the audience will have an idea of the different acres.

I'm notified it is now the House bill. That's what they call it, not the Harry Reid bill. House bill.

Barbara, do you have something you want to bring up?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Just to clarify, that bill has been passed out of our House subcommittee and our committee, and it is the House bill. It's already been reported so it's not negotiable, and it is reported out with over a million acres, includes the national park and obviously some of the issues which are important to Nevadans, like water and being able to go in and out with motorized vehicles and so forth, those things are not in the bill at the present time.

And grazing rights, there are some discussions on grazing rights and wilderness, but one of the problems with the grazing rights, Mike, is that yes, it can be grandfathered in, but the people who do have grazing rights would be recognized.

There is a problem with the willing of grazing rights. For instance, in a family, if the father and the family want to leave grazing privileges to their children, there are no rights that can be passed on, and this is one of the concerns that a lot of people have. In other words, if they are now grazing there, that's fine, but they cannot pass those grazing rights on down.

And, of course, one of the things is that eastern Congressmen did elevate the number of acres even from Harry's bill, so it is a bill, it is reported out, and it is ready to go to the final form on our floor of the House.

Mr. LAMPROS. Congresswoman Vucanovich, excuse me.

It's fine with the easterners, say, and as I said before, I am not for either one, but if we have to have them both, I would want a national park as part of the wilderness areas. But this business of saying 1.5 million is infringing on the rights of local communities.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, it is a fact and it is reported out.

Mr. LAMPROS. Well, to me, that is an infringement. And as chairman of the county commissioners and a 45-year resident of White Pine County, I feel for what these people say, so these things should be judged. But the national park should also be considered because if we're going to have that 700,000 or 1 million acres, we should have some benefits from that, because wilderness will be no benefit to White Pine County whatsoever.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, presently it is in the bill with over 700,000 probably.

Senator HECHT. Let me give you the figures, we have it exactly, since this is a House report. 939,400 acres for national forest, 174,000 for national park, totaling 1,113,400 acres. So now everyone knows what it is.

Mr. LAMPROS. I can understand that, but we have one step to go, and this is where the Senate and House start negotiating back and forth, and compromises are going to come about.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Wait a minute. Senator Hecht is just starting. They haven't even started.

Mr. LAMPROS. No, but they're eventually going to get there, and that's where the badgering is going to go back and forth and that's when we're eventually going to come out to under 800,000, closer to 700,000 acres.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, that's wishful thinking. I wish that were so.

Senator HECHT. Do you have anymore questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No more.

Senator HECHT. Mike, again I apologize. Time goes so fast. I remember seeing you when I was taller than you were. [Laughter.]

Thank you all very much, and would the next panel come up, please.

Mr. Carl Hanks, Mr. Bob Dickenson, Mr. Dean Baker, Mr. Carl Baker, Mr. Dave Eldridge, Mr. Von Sorensen.

Gentlemen, the panel all in place? Let's start right in. Mr. Carl Hanks, Nevada Farm Bureau, Tonopah, NV.

STATEMENT OF CARL HANKS, BLUE EAGLE RANCH, ELY, NV

Mr. HANKS. Good morning. My name is Carl Hanks. I'm the owner of Blue Eagle Ranch south of Ely, NV, and I'm greatful for the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee today to express my views on the various wilderness proposals being considered for this State.

Generally, I'm opposed to any wilderness designation, though I support the bill proposed by Senators Hecht and Laxalt and Representative Vucanovich as an acceptable compromise.

As a range cattleman, I run livestock in some of the high country being considered for wilderness and fear that such designation would threaten the economic viability of my operation.

Though grazing would be permitted, and though Congress and the U.S. Forest Service have wisely developed policy expressions designed to protect those rights, I believe that such policies are always vulnerable to public opinion and can be changed at any time.

We stockmen are greatly outnumbered by the urban population which does not understand our relationship to the land and often looks at grazing as an invasion of wilderness values.

Without the ability to retain full access and full management flexibility, it is doubtful that many range cattlemen like myself will be able to survive, given the tough economic conditions of today in our industry. Those conditions probably are going to continue indefinitely.

We must retain our ability to coax more efficiency from our operations if we are to continue to contribute importantly to the Nation's supply of agricultural products.

I also greatly fear the threat to our water supplies posed by the recent Federal court decision in a Colorado wilderness case in which a judge ruled that wilderness areas are entitled to Federal reserved water rights. I needn't remind you of how important water is to the rancher and farmer, particularly in a State as dry as ours. I point out, too, that a large percentage of Nevada's water originates in the high country being considered for wilderness.

I have concerns, as well, about the general lack of management options implicit in wilderness designation and am convinced that this could result in wholesale degradation of our fragile lands at a time when Federal studies show much of the rangelands to be in need of improvement. I point out that this problem has been corrected in many areas through the use of intensified management and that, in doing so, it has improved the wilderness values as well as range condition.

Thus, I believe that even those individuals who are most protective of wilderness values would profit most from the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich option.

This bill is far superior in other respects in that it contains language expressly protecting existing uses and allows flexibility in management where needed.

For these reasons, among many others, I urge the subcommittee to discourage further wilderness designation in our State but, if that is politically impractical, I support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich measure.

Thank you most respectfully for hearing my testimony.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Bob Dickenson.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. DICKENSON, PRESIDENT, WHITE PINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mr. DICKENSON. My name is Robert Dickenson. I'm the White Pine County Farm Bureau president. I'll briefly make a couple of remarks about two things.

First of all, I was certainly glad to hear that it is not written in stone that we have to have either the park or wilderness, that maybe there's a little flexibility here.

There's two things I'd like to mention, and that is your grazing continuation in the wilderness areas and also the possessory interest that ranchers have in our area.

It has been shown in other wilderness areas that you have a right to continue your grazing livestock in these areas, but results have proven that they make it so difficult and put so many regula-

tions in through the yearly work schedules, that it makes it almost noneconomic to continue with grazing in an area where you have a lot of people and a lot of problems.

Also the possessory interest. We feel as ranchers in White Pine County that we have possessory interest. We have invested a lot of money in these areas to facilitate not only the use of our own livestock but the wild game and the other areas that our investments should be recognized. If you're going to take these rights away from us, I think that we are entitled to compensation. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Dickenson follows:]

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. DICKENSON, PRESIDENT, WHITE PINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

It seems as if the ranchers of Nevada are continually fighting to maintain their position for the use of grazing on federal land.

It is true that grazing is allowed in wilderness areas; however, access will be severely curtailed. In some newly established wilderness areas regulations make it economically unfeasible to continue livestock grazing. It is very important to the established ranches and surrounding communities that the number of acres set aside for wilderness be kept to a minimum. So much of Nevada is now taken up with test sites, army, navy and airforce training zones, and single use designations, that areas such as White Pine County are being faced more and more with problems of reduced money flow.

Wilderness is a step in the directions of single use land classification. I believe in the concept of multiple use lands for the enjoyment of all of the people, not just a hardy few. Do not lock up the lands, not really knowing why it is being done.

The possessory interests of grazing and water rights must be recognized. These rights have a dollar value. Just ask any banker what they mean to bare property values and he will tell you their true worth. If grazing and water rights are removed from the owners, there should be compensation.

The Indian tribes are being paid for lands taken away by the white man. The ranchers are the ones that will be hurt in the years to come. We expect to be recognized, also.

Keep the single use lands to a minimum.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Dean Baker.

STATEMENT OF J. DEAN BAKER, BAKER, NV

Mr. DEAN BAKER. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, I very much appreciate the opportunity to be here today to testify before this committee. I'll make my statements very short but try to make the points.

I'm Dean Baker. I'm from Baker, NV. My family and I own various property rights within and adjacent to the proposed park area.

I oppose the Great Basin National Park because of the probable loss of these rights. Water comes from the mountain and is the basis for value in an arid area. Any legislation concerning Nevada wilderness or parks must contain some guaranties for the taking of water or other property rights.

I oppose any park or wilderness legislation of greater acreage than the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill.

Any loss of grazing rights will threaten the economic viability of the entire ranching industry in the area. I believe the proposed park area is now getting its best possible protection, use, and management under the Forest Service multiple use.

Under park or wilderness management, the Wheeler Peak area will suffer losses such as property rights, chosen lifestyles, broad economic base, and use of renewable resources. Increased governmental control is also contrary to the wishes of the current resi-

dents of the area, and single-use designation of the area is to no one's benefit.

Thank you for letting my express my opinions to you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for your long drive up, too. Carl Baker.

STATEMENT OF CARL BAKER, BAKER, NV

Mr. CARL BAKER. Thank you, ladies and gentleman for this opportunity to be here.

I feel that the multiple use concept that the Forest Service now has better serves the people of Nevada. I feel that either a wilderness or a national park discriminates against certain groups of people in our State.

I feel that if we do have to have wilderness or park, which I hope we don't, I feel there should be guaranties that we are compensated for any loss of property rights that we have on the mountains such as grazing or water.

If we do have a wilderness, I certainly hope that it will be the smaller version that you propose.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Dave Eldridge.

STATEMENT OF DAVID ELDRIDGE, WHITE PINE COUNTY, NV

Mr. ELDRIDGE. Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich:

I'm testifying as an individual rather than chairman of the Eastern Nevada Livestock.

I'm Dave Eldridge, a lifetime resident of White Pine County and third generation livestock operator with grazing permits on both Mount Wheeler and Mount Moriah.

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Great Basin National Park and to the excessive amount of wilderness proposed under Congressman Reid's wilderness bill.

Historically, the ranching community has advocated multiple use of our Federal lands. I strongly recommend we keep as much of our State as possible under the multiple use concept. When an area is removed from multiple use, even when it is public land, you have people who own property rights that go with that land. Some of these are water rights, grazing rights, mining claims and other privately owned rights. When these rights are lost for a single use concept, the supporting legislation should contain guaranties of payment for these rights.

The wilderness portion of the Reid bill is excessive, to say the least. If we have to have any wilderness at all, I do not support any more than is proposed under the Hecht-Vucanovich bill. Any wilderness proposals should directly involve the local land users in establishing boundary lines, and their firsthand knowledge of what is actually wilderness should be considered.

I don't think that most Nevadans appreciate having a Utah professor or an Ohio Congressman making our land use planning decisions.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Von Sorensen.

STATEMENT OF VON SORENSEN, PRESIDENT, NEVADA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. SORENSEN. I am Von Sorensen, a sheep and cattle rancher living in Clover Valley near Wells, NV. I am also president of the Nevada Wool Growers Association, and I am here today testifying for our association.

I appreciate you, Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich, coming to our State to hear our views, our input concerning wilderness.

Our first preference is to leave things as is with no wilderness designation.

We feel that there are sufficient controls under the present multiple use management system for the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to adequately manage the public lands for the benefit of all people without going into restrictive wilderness designation.

We have problems now in wilderness study areas with restrictions on adequate road maintenance and even use of some established roads. Restrictions on adequate predator control and restrictions on necessary fencing for control of livestock are other problems in these study areas.

We are very concerned about the impact of wilderness upon our water rights. And, as Judge Kane ruled in Colorado concerning water in wilderness areas, the 1964 Wilderness Act affected a withdrawal and reservation of wilderness areas to which the implied reservation of water doctrine applies. This means that water rights in wilderness areas are in question and possibly in jeopardy. This is of vital concern of all Nevada farmers and ranchers.

Upon conferring with livestock producers in surrounding States where there are existing wilderness areas, we have learned that some permittees have been forced to cease running livestock in wilderness areas and also in wilderness buffer areas surrounding the wilderness due to the cancellation of grazing permits and because of excessive restrictions.

We oppose the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County. It would have an adverse effect on livestock grazing and the economy of the county.

Any legislation relating to Nevada wilderness needs to contain guarantees of payment for the taking of any water rights or any other private property rights.

The Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness proposal will have a minimal impact upon livestock grazing of the public land in Nevada due to the areas designated and the amount of 137,000 acres. We support no greater acreage than this amount. Also, this proposal guarantees access for grazing, mining, and other uses.

The Nevada Wool Growers Association supports the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness proposal.

I think you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Let me just ask one general question. All of you are expressing basically the same view. If you had your way, would you have no wilderness?

[All members of the panel answer affirmatively, followed by applause from the audience.]

Senator HECHT. That takes time out from the speakers. No more applause.

I just like to ask these questions because I'd like to bring it out on the record, because when we go back to Washington I want it to be brought out that certain people do not want any wilderness. That's the reason I ask you.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I have no questions.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, gentlemen. And I appreciate the time and trouble.

Mr. DEAN BAKER. I would just say that I think we all feel that your bill and Congresswoman Vucanovich's is a compromise, and that is the only reason that we accept it rather than no wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Our next panel: Mr. George Swallow, Mr. Odis Johnston, Mr. Melvin Gardner, Mr. Van Gardner, Mr. Cecil Garland, Mr. Tony Locke.

OK, let's proceed. George, I see that you've got quite a statement, and I will bring up again, any formal statement will be put into the record. Please summarize in 3 minutes, George, OK?

Mr. SWALLOW. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Good to see you.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW, PRESIDENT, BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.

Mr. SWALLOW. Mr. Chairman, honorable members of the panel, my name is George Swallow. I am president of Blue Energy Resources, Inc.

I realize my statement is much longer than the time allowed; therefore, I would like to make a few statements, and if you will, cut me off when my time is up.

Senator HECHT. When the red light goes, George.

Mr. SWALLOW. All right, thank you.

It's difficult for me to understand why we should have a wilderness bill or a park bill of any kind. One of the reasons for my concern is the fact that in the State of Alaska they started with a few large national parks—bear in mind that Alaska is approximately five times the size of Nevada—and at this particular time, the national parks, the wilderness areas, the monuments and restrictive areas cover at least one-third or more of the State of Alaska.

Now, if we got a park in Nevada or we obtain wilderness area of any size, it's just a matter of time until it will spread like wildfire. You don't control these.

Now, let's weigh the benefits from a park.

Recent studies have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the economic benefits connected with the park will be very limited at best. The most that could be reasonably expected over what we are receiving from tourists within the park area would be $2,144,137.93 per year. Of this amount, the maximum Ely could hope to receive would be approximately $643,241.37.

In order to obtain this amount, we would lose the following—it does not look like a very good trade—$2 million of new wealth per year from ranching and livestock. A new wealth dollar turns over

25 times in a year. Therefore, the value to our local economy would be $50 million per year. We would lose at least $180,000 per year.

Senator HECHT. George, you've got to summarize it now.

Mr. SWALLOW. The economic benefits from the mining would conservatively be, from just one mine, $4,271,250 per year.

Senator HECHT. Sorry to cut you off.

Mr. SWALLOW. Thank you. Quite all right.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Swallow follows:]

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW FOR

WILDERNESS HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 1986

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN MALCOLM WALLOP AND HONORABLE SENATOR CHIC HECTH.

MY NAME IS GEORGE N. SWALLOW. I AM PRESIDENT OF BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. OWNS APPROXIMATELY 311 UNPATENTED MINING CLAIMS WITHIN THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY. PERSONALLY I OWN 50% INTEREST IN AN ADDITIONAL 53 UNPATENTED MINING CLAIMS.

BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC. IS OPPOSED TO ANY NATIONAL PARK OR ANY WILDERNESS AREAS BEING ESTABLISHED IN NEVADA ----------

THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK WILL LOWER THE STANDARDS FOR NATIONAL PARKS.

RECENT STUDIES HAVE PROVEN BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS CONNECTED WITH THE PARK WILL BE VERY LIMITED AT BEST. THE MOST THAT COULD BE REASONABLY EXPECTED OVER WHAT WE ARE RECEIVING FROM TOURISTS WITHIN THE PARK AREA WOULD BE $2,144,137.93 PER YEAR. OF THIS AMOUNT THE MAXIMUM ELY COULD HOPE TO RECEIVE WOULD BE APPROXIMATLEY $643,241.37.

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THIS AMOUNT WE WOULD LOSE THE FOLLOWING:

OVER $2,000,000.00 OF NEW WEALTH PER YEAR FROM RANCHING & LIVESTOCK. A NEW WEALTH DOLLAR TURNS OVER 25 TIMES IN A YEAR. THEREFORE THE VALUE TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY WOULD BE $50,000,000.00 PER YEAR. WE WOULD LOSE AT LEAST $180,000.00 PER YEAR FROM THE LUMBER POTENTIAL. THE VALUE TO OUR ECONOMY FROM THIS NEW WEALTH WOULD BE $4,500,000.00 PER YEAR.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT PROJECTION BY NATIONAL TREASURE MINES CO. THEIR DETAILED PROJECTION SHOWS A REASONABLE CURRENT MARKET PROJECTION OF $3,570,000.00 GROSS PER YEAR AND AN ANTICIPATED MARKET PROJECTION OF $4,271.250.00 GROSS PER YEAR. AFTER APPLYING A RECOGNIZED ECONOMIC MARKET FACTOR TO THE $4,271,250.00, PRODUCTION OF NEW WEALTH, THE LOCAL ECONOMY WOULD ENJOY A CIRCULATING MEDIUM OF $106,781,250.00 PER YEAR.

WITH RESPECT TO THE MINING IT APPEARS AS IF WE WOULD LOSE, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION EXISTING MINES AND POTENTIAL MINES, APPROXIMATELY $20,000,000.00 PER YEAR OF NEW WEALTH. THIS NEW WEALTH WOULD ENHANCE ITS VALUE IN OUR LOCAL ECONOMY TO THE EXTENT OF APPROXIMATLEY $500,000,000.00 PER YEAR. THIS OF COURSE, WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE EXISTING MINES AND POTENTIAL MINES WITHIN THE PARK AREA INCLUDING THE OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT.

WHEN WE ADD THE VALUE OF OTHER RESOURCES SUCH AS HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING OF FUR BEARING ANIMALS, POLES, FENCE POSTS, PINENUTS AND FIREWOOD THIS WOULD ALSO BE SUBSTANTIAL.

WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP YEAR ROUND RECREATION PROJECTS WITH PRIVATE CAPITAL. THIS ALONE WOULD ADD MANY TIMES MORE TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY THAN WOULD A NATIONAL PARK.

UNDER THE PRESENT MULTIPLE USE CONCEPT AS ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE WE HAVE THE FREEDOM WITH ONLY REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS TO ENJOY THE ENTIRE AREA.

IT DOES NOT MAKE ECONOMIC SENCE TO PLACE ALL OUR RESOURCES IN A DEEP FREEZE. WE NEED TO DEVELOP OUR RESOURCES TO STIMULATE OUR LOCAL ECONOMY.

IT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY TO DEVELOP NATIONAL PARKS. IS GOOD JUDGMENT BEING EXERCISED WHEN OUR TRADE DEFICIT IS RUNNING 152 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR; WHEN WE ARE BUDGETING APPROXIMATELY 1 TRILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR AND WHEN OUR NATIONAL DEBT IS IN EXCESS OF $1,572,267,000,000.00 (PER CAP. DEBT $6,626.57).

IT DOES NOT MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE TO CREATE NEW NATIONAL PARKS. CONGRESS IS NOT SHOWING ANY FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS SHEAR NONSENCE.

WITHIN THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK WE HAVE VALUABLE MINES AND MINERAL DEPOSITS -- SOME OF THESE MINERALS SUCH AS BERYLLIUM ARE VITAL TO OUR NATION FROM A DEFENSE STANDPOINT. I WISH TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF MY STATEMENT:

1. LETTER OF NATIONAL TREASURE MINES COMPANY DATED NOVEMBER 22, 1985 TO HOUSE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE. (ATTACHED HERETO)

2. LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES TO MR. ALFRED M. BURANEK, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL TREASURE MINES CO. (ATTACHED HERETO)

ONCE WE HAVE A NATIONAL PARK OR A WILDERNESS AREA ESTABLISHED IN NEVADA OUR STATE WILL LITERALLY EXPLODE WITH PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS. PROOF OF THIS IS THE HISTORY OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

IN ALASKA, THE ORIGINAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS WERE HUGE. SINCE THEN 1/3 to 1/2 OR MORE OF THE REMAINING LAND HAS GONE INTO NEW PARKS, NEW MONUMENT LANDS AND ADDITIONAL PROTECTED AREAS. YOU PEOPLE IN CONGRESS WILL SOON HAVE ALASKA REDUCED TO POVERTY.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW FOR

WILDERNESS HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 1986 PAGE 3

THESE SAME GROUPS THAT CREATED PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS ARE, TO A LARGE DEGREE, RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR HIGH NATIONAL DEBT AND HIGH INTEREST RATES.

THERE ARE PRO-PARK PEOPLE IN OUR WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO ARE PUSHING FOR A PARK AGAINST THE WISHES OF APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE PEOPLE IN WHITE PINE COUNTY AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

H.R. 3022 GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK BILL IS BOTH BACKWARD AND NEGATIVE.

THIS AREA HAS NEVER BEEN EVALUATED. BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN THERE SHOULD BE A THOROUGH OBJECTIVE STUDY. THE WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON MULTIPLE USE.

WE HAVE A CERTAIN HARD-CORE GROUP IN THE WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO WOULD WIPE OUT OUR RANCHERS, LIVESTOCK PEOPLE, MINERS, OIL PEOPLE, PROSPECTORS, OUR HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, RIGHT TO GATHER PINENUTS, RIGHT TO GATHER FIREWOOD, RIGHT TO MAKE UNRESTRICTIVE USE OF WATER RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO PUT IN HYDRO-PLANTS, THE RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS, THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH YEAR-ROUND RECREATION AREAS AND THE RIGHT IN AN UNRESTRICTIVE WAY TO ENJOY THE AESTHETIC VALUES OF THE AREA.

IN THE PAST AND RIGHT NOW THE BUSINESS PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY DEPEND ON THE NEW WEALTH CREATED BY THE BASIC INDUSTRIES. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOTED TO CONFISCATE THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE BASIC INDUSTRIES WITHOUT A TINGE OF CONSCIOUS.

THE WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRO-PARK PEOPLE HAVE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON THE RESOURCE PEOPLE.THEY REFER TO THESE PEOPLE AS EXPLOITERS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, ETC., THEY ACCUSE THEIR RESOURCE PEOPLE OF DESTROYING THE FUTURE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHEN IN REALITY THE REVERSE IS TRUE. WHEN THESE SAME PEOPLE PUSH FOR A SINGLE USE, THEY ARE PART OF A PLAN TO SELF DESTRUCT THE FUTURE FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN.

GENTLEMEN I SUBMIT TO YOU A QUESTION. IS IT NOT UNUSUAL THAT THE PRO-PARK MEMBER OF OUR WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARE NOT TRYING TO PROTECT OUR BASIC RESOURCES?

GENTLEMEN. I WISH TO SUBMIT ANOTHER QUESTION. HOW ACCURATE ARE THE STATISTICS REGARDING VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS--CAN IT BE TRUE THAT WE HAVE MORE VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM THAN WE HAVE PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW FOR

WILDERNESS HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 1986 PAGE 4

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SHOULD BE FORCED BY CONGRESS TO BASE THEIR VISITATION ON ACTUAL RECEIPTS OR SIGNED REGISTERS. PRESENT FIGURES ARE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS NOT TAKING CARE OF THE EXISTING PARKS. WHY SHOULD WE CREATE MORE PARKS WHEN WE CANNOT TAKE CARE OF THOSE WE HAVE NOW?

A WILDERNESS SYSTEM WILL STIFLE OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM NOW ENJOYED UNDER OUR REPUBLIC. SINCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS WRITTEN AND ADOPTED, WE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAVE OPERATED UNDER THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. OUR CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE, LIBERTY, AND PROPERTY. WITHOUT PROPERTY IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, WE CANNOT ENJOY THE PROTECTION OF LIBERTY AND THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AS IS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND RICHEST NATIONS IN THE WORLD. THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED PRIMARILY AND ENTIRELY AS A RESULT OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. IN ORDER TO HAVE A RICH, POWERFUL, AND PROGRESSIVE NATION, WE MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE THE PRODUCTION OF NEW WEALTH FROM OUR RESOURCES.

TO DATE, THE ONLY SOURCE OF BASICALLY NEW WEALTH THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO OUR ECONOMY IS FROM THE MINERALS MOSTLY UNDER THE GROUND AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. TO SET ASIDE VAST AREAS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN AND, AT THE SAME TIME, PLACE THESE AREAS IN A DEEP FREEZE, WILL HAMPER AND RESTRICT THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NECESSARY TO OUR ECONOMY.

DEDICATED PROPONENTS OF THE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM EXPOUND THE THEORY THAT SOMEWHERE IN OUR LAND PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF GETTING BACK TO NATURE, AWAY FROM IT ALL, AND BE ABLE TO VIEW AND SEE AREAS UNTRAMMELED BY MAN. MAN WAS PUT UPON THIS EARTH TO LIVE, PROGRESS, DEVELOP, AND USE THE RESOURCES WISELY. THEREFORE, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THIS ANIMAL WE CALL MAN TRAMMELING ALL OF THE AREA OF THE UNITED STATES?

OF ALL LIVING THINGS ON EARTH, MAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND MOST FAVORED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE WILDERNESS LEGISLATION ITSELF DOES ANYTHING FOR THE OVERALL CAUSE OF RECREATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. IN ORDER TO GET INTO WILDERNESS AREAS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MUST HIKE OR RIDE HORSES. THE NUBMER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS CENTURY WHO CAN TAKE TIME TO HIKE AND WHO HAVE THE MONEY AND RESOURCES AND TIME TO HIRE HORSES AND SO FORTH, ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

THEREFORE, IT WOULD APPEAR AS IF THIS TYPE OF BEAUTY WOULD BE LIMITED TO AN EXCEPTIONALLY SMALL MINORITY WHO EITHER HAVE WEALTH AND TIME ON THEIR HANDS, OR OTHERS WHO ARE NOT ENGAGED IN MAKING A LIVING.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW FOR

WILDERNESS HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 1986 PAGE 5

SHOULD A NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED IN WHICH ROADBUILDING IS NOT ALLOWED, THE BUILDING OF TRAILS IS NOT ALLOWED, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AIRPORTS IS NOT PERMITTED, AND WATERWAYS ARE CLOSED TO MOTORBOATS, AND SO FORTH, IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES.

IN NEVADA IT IS DANGEROUS TO DESIGNATE ANY AREA AS A WILDERNESS AREA, PARTICULARLY AS SET FORTH IN H.R. 3022 TITLE I--ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM. WHY DESTROY THE INCENTIVE TO SEARCH FOR MINERALS AND ALSO THE INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP THESE MINERALS. MINING PEOPLE HAVE JUST SCRATCHED THE SURFACE SO TO SPEAK IN NEVADA. OIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IS JUST GETTING A GOOD START.

IF NOT STOPPED, THE PROPONENTS OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS WILL TOTALLY DESTROY THE ECONOMY OF THIS STATE.

I WISH TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS HERE TODAY.

NATIONAL TREASURE MINES CO.
Building #2, Suite 400
165 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

November 22, 1985

House Interior
National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee
Bristle Cone Convention Center
150 - 6th Street
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Sirs:

This will advise that neither Mt. Wheeler Mines Company nor National Treasure Mines Company, mining and fee property owners and taxpayers of record, have been notified of the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee meeting to be held at the Bristle Cone Convention Center, Ely, Nevada, on November 25, 1985. Fortunately I was advised by George Swallow of the meeting and consequently phoned the House Interior National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., on November 20, 1985, that I wished attendance and audience at the meeting. A proposed park expansion, if passed, would cause great financial losses to the above companies with which I am associated, plus retard the future development of what is considered to be the second major beryllium province thus far known in America, notwithwtanding the associated tungsten, fluorite and other related minerals. It would also adversely affect future economic activity in the area resulting from production and employment opportunities.

The Mt. Wheeler Mine is in the Mt. Washington Mining District, White Pine County, Nevada. The property includes portions of Section 11, Sections 14, 15, 16 and Sections 21, 22, 23, T. 12 N., R. 68 E., comprising some 111 lode mining claims in the Humboldt National Forest.

Without hesitation, in my opinion, the Mt. Wheeler Mine is a positive five million dollar development project with beryllium and associated tungsten and fluorite as important by-products along with a minor tin potential. Underground development at a cost of several million dollars has defined several ore zones of some 200,000 tons adjacent to the so-called Pole Adit, the main entry of the Mt. Wheeler Mine. The weighted average ore grade is BeO 0.75%, WO_3 0.50%, and CaF_2 20%. In addition to ore exposed in thousands of feet of laterals, stopes, and raises, the grade and extent of ore has been

further defined by extensive underground diamond drilling and beryllometer probe. These principal reserves do not include additional potential reserves exposed in the 1200 feet of workings of the North Adit and several surface outcrops. Nor does this include the potential of the extensive tungsten showings in the Cannan and Washington fissure systems as exposed over several thousand feet of surface outcrop, and some 1500 feet above the Pole Adit. Accordingly, a 100 to 150 ton per day mining and milling operation of four to six years duration is already assured.

The following economic concept sets forth salient factors of product, cost and gross values before taxes:

BeO - 0.75% (15 pounds of beryllium oxide (equivalent to about 5.4 pounds of beryllium metal, of which some 85% or 4.6 pounds would be recoverable) 15 lb. X 200,000 T X 85% X $6.75 value in 20% BeO concentrate	$17,212.500
WO_3 - (Tungsten Trioxide) 0.50 = 10 lbs X 200,000 X 80% recovery in a 65% concentrate X $3.00 of contained WO_3	$ 4,800,000
Fluorspar - Recovery estimate 75% X 20% X 200,000 T X $100/T for commercial grade	$ 3,000,000
The gross value of recoverable minerals is over $25,000,000.00.	
GROSS VALUE - CURRENT DOLLARS	$25,012,500
Per ton value for 200,000 Tons	$ 125.06
Estimated mining and milling cost/Ton	$ 65.00
Estimated operating margin/Ton	$ 60.06
Gross operating margin - 200,000 Tons	$12,012,000

As you may be aware, outside the U.S.S.R. the only positive known producer of beryllium metal is Brush Wellman, Inc., in the U.S. Consequently, the U.S. is the only Western source of primary beryllium products, metal, alloys, and oxide. Brush Wellman's success is directly related to ownership of raw

material (BeO ore), processing plants for conversion to marketable products, and sales contracts thereof to purchasers in the industry, particularly in U.S.

This format could be applied to Mt. Wheeler whereby BeO concentrates could be produced at the mine and mill in Nevada - and in concentrate form be shipped to Germany or other parts of Western Europe for processing into various beryllium products for retail market.

I might add that the ultimate potential calculated value of the contained Be in 200,000 T of 4.6 pounds beryllium metal at quoted E&MJ ($313.00 lb.) is $287,960,000.

Beryllium products are critical to the space industry and national defense.

It seems strange that at this time consideration would be given to ways of spending monies for a Park which is remote from population centers and potential wide public use to the detriment of activities which would increase the gross national product and which are important to national defense.

This is a matter that was considered at great length some 20 years ago by Congress. At that time thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars were expended and the proposal for a large park was rejected. Nothing new has occurred which should change that study and decision. If anything, time has proven the wisdom of that decision.

Since then the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., has conducted successful processing of Mt. Wheeler beryllium ores - Bu Mines RI5875, 1961; RI6386 1964; unpublished Defense Minerals Exploration Administration 3428; Geologic Map of the Wheeler Peak and Highland Ridge Further Planning Areas, White Pine County, Nevada, U.S. Geologic Survey Misc. Field Studies Map MF-1343-A 1982; and Bu Mines beryllium commodity report "Beryllium Availability and the Market Economy Countries - Mineral Availability Appraisal" now in progress. In addition, Dr. Mark D. Barton, Assistant Professor of Geology and Geochemistry, Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles, has been and is conducting investigations of the Mt. Wheeler Mine and area to ultimately evaluate the considerable potential for significant ore deposits of granite-related lithophile-element mineral deposits.

Respectfully submitted,

NATIONAL TREASURE MINES COMPANY

Alfred M. Buranek, President

ABM:bb

CC - Office of the President, Washington D.C.
Senator Chic Hecht
Congressman Barbara Vucanovich
Senator Paul Laxalt
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Jake Garn
Congressman James Hansen

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES
3806 GEOLOGY BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

November 20, 1985

Mr. Alfred M. Buranek, President
National Treasure Mines Company
Building #2, Suite 400
165 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Dear Al:

In response to your phone call yesterday, I am writing to tell you a bit more about the work that I am doing at the Mount Wheeler Mine and in nearby parts of eastern Nevada. One of my main research interests is in understanding the origin of granite-related lithophile-element (for example, Be, W, Sn, Mo) mineral deposits. I began working on these sorts of problems for my Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Chicago. There I studied the stability relations of beryllium minerals and topaz and applied those results to lithophile-element deposits. At the same time I started studying a very large fluorine-rich skarn near Eureka, Nevada. That field project has lead me into my current work on lithophile-element deposits in the western United States.

My investigations have several aims: 1) to describe many of the deposits in sufficient detail so that their characteristics (mineralogy, ore grades, geology) can be compared and contrasted, 2) to perform geochemical and petrological studies of the rocks in order to determine the conditions under which they formed and the sources from which they were derived, and 3) to develop a theoretical model that relates the observed similarities and differences among the deposits. This multifaceted approach should improve our general understanding of how the principal ore deposits of the lithophile elements form. There has been relatively little work on this problem in the United States (in the last 25 years), largely because little of our consumption of these materials (excepting beryllium) has been met by imports. The deposits in Nevada are remarkably similar to major ore deposits in China and the Soviet Union. These similarities suggest that there is considerable potential for significant ore deposits of this type in eastern Nevada. The potential can only be evaluated properly through exploration coupled with scientific investigation.

The southern Snake Range contains some of the best examples of Nevada-type lithophile-element deposits. The Be mineralization has been known for some time (for example, Stager, 1960), and tungsten was mined in the area as early as World War I. At least three areas in the southern Snake Range have similar mineralization: the Mount Wheeler mine area, the Pole Canyon pluton (east side), and the Lexington Creek pluton (east side). In addition, tungsten was produced from many other mines in range. The Mount Wheeler mine area is exceptional among the dozen or so localities of which I am aware in that it contains the highest grade mineralization and also is among the largest potential resources of beryllium.

Mr. Alfred M. Buranek
November 20, 1985
Page 2

Enclosed is a copy of a newly submitted abstract on some of my Nevada studies. I trust that you find this overview of my work useful. I much appreciate your cooperation in my investigations in the southern Snake Range.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Barton

Mark D. Barton
Assistant Professor of Geology
and Geochemistry

MDB/gk

Encl.

USE THIS FORM FOR ALL 1986 GSA MEETINGS (SECTION & ANNUAL MEETINGS)

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[1] TYPE YOUR ABSTRACT IN THE SPACE BELOW using fresh black carbon ribbon. Follow the format shown on the attached instructions. Blue lines below show absolute limits. *Do not fold abstract*; mail flat with reinforcement to avoid retyping charge.

LITHOPHILE ELEMENT MINERALIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH LATE CRETACEOUS TWO-MICA GRANITES IN NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

Nº 102096

BARTON, Mark D., Department of Earth and Space Sciences, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Late Cretaceous (69-86 m.y.) strongly peraluminous two-mica granitoids are intimately associated with an unusual style of lithophile element mineralization. Eight areas with characteristic mineralization have been identified in a region stretching from eastern Nevada to eastern California roughly corresponding to the axis of the Cordilleran miogeocline. Alteration is typified by strong F and Al metasomatism. Skarns are typically stockworks with the sequence (early to late): gt+cpx±id± fl-pc+fl+ep+amph+chl±cz±bi±ap-mu+fl+phl±carb±ap+qz+mu+fl±carb(-Ag-bearing qz+carb veins). Ore minerals (found with hydrous skarn) include: sph, py, po, sch, mol, beryl, phenakite, bertrandite and ccp. In clastic rocks, qz veins contain py±mu±fl±sch. The intrusives commonly contain abundant aplites, pegmatites and qz veins (±beryl±wolf±mol± greisen envelopes) with lesser amounts mu+fl greisen and albitization. Grades can exceed 25% CaF_2, 4% Zn, 1% BeO, ~1% W, 0.5% Mo, and 500ppm Sn. The McCullough Butte, Nevada area contains $>10^8$ tons of >10% CaF_2. This style of mineralization resembles lithophile element ore deposits in Asia, Australia and Alaska.

Field relations and available stable isotope data indicate magmatic components in the F-rich alteration with or without minor meteoric/connate/host components. The intrusions have some characteristics of a reduced, sedimentary source: $\delta^{18}O$(w.r.) = 9.1-13.4‰, $(^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr)_i$ = 0.711-0.737, CaO + MgO ≲ 2 wt%, and low opaques. Other features are incompatible with a highly evolved source (or magma). Rb/Sr ≲ 0.5, La/Yb > 10, and Eu/Eu* > 0.7. The high F content and high Al mobility in these deposits may result from the low Ca + Mg contents and high Al (Na+K+Ca) in the igneous rocks, in turn reflecting the sources and evolution of the magmas.

DETACH FOR MAILING

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- ☐ 24 petrology, metamorphic
- ☐ 25 petrology, sedimentary
- ☐ 26 planetary geology
- ☐ 27 Precambrian geology
- ☐ 28 Quaternary geology
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Topic _____

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Speaker's status (check one):
1 ☒ GSA Mem or Fel
2 ☐ GSA Student Assoc
3 ☐ Professional geologist (but not GSA mbr)
4 ☐ Student (not GSA Assoc)

Speaker's name Mark D. Barton
Address Dept. Earth & Space Sciences
Address UCLA
City State Zip Los Angeles, CA 90024
Country
Office Telephone (213) 206-8288
Home Telephone ( ) _____

Dates we can reach you anytime

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

3216 Russell Office Building
(202) 224-3542

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705 North Plaza Street
(702) 883-1932

Las Vegas Office
300 Las Vegas Blvd. South
(702) 388-6547

Reno Office
300 South Street
(702) 784-5568

December 16, 1985

Dear Mr. Buranek:

Thank you for the copy of your letter to the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee regarding the proposed creation of a Great Basin National Park at Wheeler Peak.

I appreciate having your comments on the impact of the proposal on your mining ventures in the area. Your views are helpful to the further review of the proposal. My concern has been, from the start, that not enough deliberate consideration has been given to the proposal and that its inclusion in the proposed Nevada Wilderness Bill is inappropriate. The information you have supplied is the kind of information that should be thoroughly considered prior to making such a fundamental decision.

I am enclosing a copy of my remarks to the Subcommittee at the same hearing. Again, I thank you for your views.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Paul Laxalt

PAUL LAXALT
U.S. Senator

PL:ksw

Mr. Alfred M. Buranek, President
National Treasure Mines Company
Building #2
Suite 400
165 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Enclosure

Statement of
Senator Paul Laxalt
on the proposed Great Basin National Park
November 25, 1985

Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee on the issue of the Great Basin National Park.

I have several concerns with the Park proposal. The first is that it is being considered as a part of the proposed Wilderness Bill for Nevada. I believe this rather hastily called hearing highlights the fact that this proposal is a new factor in the Wilderness Bill review. The first time I heard the idea was when it was reported as part of the House version of the Nevada Wilderness Bill. A more deliberate approach to the impacts and outlines of a new National Park is, I believe, required for such an important matter. This hearing is a good first step toward due consideration of the Park proposal. But I suggest that it should, perhaps, be reviewed as separate legislation.

I am also concerned with the form the Park will take, as recommended by the Subcommittee. A National Park can take many forms, as directed by the Congress. The Subcommittee has, for instance, decided that grazing will continue, although the Park Service has little expertise as managers of grazing rights. I suspect that the Park Service will treat those rights with a low priority. A National Park with grazing is something called a National Park Preserve. It is not your top-of-the line National Park, and we should not proceed with the misconception that it will be labeled as such.

A National Park also does not permit hunting. The Park proposal of the Subcommittee is consistent with National Park practice by excluding hunting from its proposal.

The Park proposal in the Wilderness Bill uses, for simplicity I presume, the existing boundaries of the national forest. I am not sure those are the boundaries that make the most sense. But in any event, we have not had much opportunity to study the boundary question. As the Subcommittee is aware, the question of a Great Basin Park has been

considered in the past and foundered over the boundary question, among others.

I ask, Mr. Chairman, whether there should not be an area of wilderness within such a Park. The bristlecone pines found within the boundaries are certainly in a fragile ecosystem, and I suspect there are other areas with fragile environments within the proposed park boundaries. These should be considered further.

The characteristics of the Wheeler Peak area are certainly worthy of Park designation, and I will not argue the merits of the area. Wheeler Peak is a magnificent example of the Great Basin ecosystem, with towering peaks, forests characteristic of both high desert and alpine area, streams, and unusual wildlife and plant life. Moreover, the Bristlecone Pine Forests are unique as among the oldest living organisms on earth. They are certainly worthy of preserving in a National Park to make them accessible to all our citizens.

I respect and commend those who have pressed this idea at the local level. I understand and share their interest in the possible economic benefits of a National Park. I caution them, however, to secure the best possible information about such benefits before committing themselves to the Park because Parks have not always proven the stimulus expected of them. A Great Basin National Park will not change the relative geographical isolation of Wheeler Peak. Remember that in a National Park, grazing, hunting, and mining are not allowed, and where those activities are allowed the area is not a top-of-the line "National Park." If those activities are to be foregone, the increased visitation and resulting economic benefits should be well assured. The present management system will serve more diverse activities in the absence of an assured economic stimulus.

Mr. Chairman, I raise these issues not to throw cold water on the proposal, but to demonstrate that there are questions which have not been adequately addressed and to suggest that the proposal should, perhaps, stand on its own merits outside an already controversial wilderness bill.

Thank you.

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF MINES
P. O. BOX 25086
BUILDING 20, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225
Minerals Availability Field Office

December 16, 1985

Mr. Alfred M. Buranek, President
National Treasure Mines Company
Building 2, Suite 400
165 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Dear Mr. Buranek:

Thank you for sending the current information on Mt. Wheeler Mine. The information requested in your letter of December 2, 1985, can be provided once the technical reviews of the beryllium availability report has been completed.

Sincerely,

Audrey A. Soja

Audrey A. Soja
Industry Economist

AAS/je#2434E

c: George T. Krempasky

LaPRAIRIE MINING LIMITED
2525 Sharon Way, Reno, NV 89509
(702) 826-3049 Home
(702) 826-2838 Office

December 20, 1985

Mr. Alfred M. Buraneck, Pres & Chm. of Board,
National Treasure Mines Co.,
Arrow Press Square Bldg. No. 2,
Suite 400, 165 South West Temple,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Dear Al;

During this past September, 1985 I attended the Nevada Mining Association's annual meeting. At the time, I spoke to three parties re: Mount Wheeler Mine.

The parties are: St. Joe Minerals Corp, the company which I worked for 13 years in New York State, Cominco American and Billiton Exploration U.S.A. Inc.

St. Joe are having enough of their own problems, Billiton expressed a strong interest - which has been modified by our early winter and some adverse political problems i.e. national monument. Cominco has made a reply - copy enclosed.

I don't know how to allay the adverse publicity that we have been presented. I'm sure that you know the problems and know whether the intent will affect the Mount Wheeler Mine area.

If you can present any refutation of what is being planned as to its affect on the Wheeler Mine Property I would find it useful.

Or if you would like to talk directly to Billiton I suggest you do so. The person to talk to is David Whitehead, V.P., Billiton Exploration U.S.A. Inc., Denver, Co.

Sincerely,
Jules La Prairie

JPL/pl
enclosure

Cominco American

Mr. Jules LaPrairie
LaPrairie Mining Limited
2525 Sharon Way
Reno, NV 89509

December 16, 1985

Dear Jules:

I've heard from Bob Suda from our Reno office on the subject of Mt. Wheeler.

Going by the geological description, I'd say that the deposit would be something we would normally consider visiting. However, it sounds as though the land status in the area is somewhat clouded. Because of this and also because our basic interest is not too strong, we will not elect to pursue the matter further.

Thanks, Jules, for letting us know about the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Bob Sakrison

H. C. Sakrison
Manager, Development

HCS:kai

cc: Bob Suda

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Odis Johnston.

STATEMENT OF ODIS JOHNSTON, PRESIDENT, NEW WHITE PINE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

Mr. JOHNSTON. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich:

My name is Odis Johnston. I am president of the New White Pine Sportsman Club. My remarks this morning represent the opinions of the some 38 members of the club.

We wish to thank Senator Hecht for holding this hearing and giving the people a chance to make their wishes known.

Our club supports the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness bills. However, if we had our druthers, we would like even less acreage taken out of multiple use. We do not want more rigid controls by Federal agencies that sometimes are unduly influenced by relatively small groups and individuals with self-serving interests. We feel that the Federal Government has too much control of the lands in Nevada, and we do not want more controls. The present multiple use concept, as administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, is working. It can be improved. We are sure that it will be improved, especially if the management policies of the agencies involved can be kept out of the political arena.

If the wilderness area becomes a fact, senior citizens would not be able to use and enjoy these areas as they do now with practically unrestricted access. It is said, and rightly so, that we must preserve our lands for future generations. However, we must recognize that future generations include an ever increasing number of senior citizens. Let us leave this land such that senior citizens can also enjoy it when they reach the point in life that they are no longer able to shoulder a backpack. The same holds true for the physically impaired.

Economic benefits to the country would be nil at best. There would probably be a reduction of present benefits derived from outdoorsmen, ranching, mining and tourism. For example, hunters and fishermen would soon quit using the areas due to lack of fish and game. The game management programs that are now carried on by the Nevada Department of Wildlife in cooperation with the Federal agencies would cease. One sells more gasoline to the owner of a recreational vehicle taking it into the hills than one does to a backpacker.

We strongly urge the members of the Nevada congressional delegation to support the Hecht-Laxalt bill. We also urge the delegation to use its respected influence on other Members of Congress to do likewise.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Melvin Gardner.

PANEL MEMBER. Mr. Melvin Gardner sent word that he's unable to attend this hearing. However, he stated he is also opposed to a park and also a wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Would you please relate back if he wishes to give a statement, we have until February 28, and his statement will be the same as if oral.

PANEL MEMBER. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Mr. Van Gardner.

STATEMENT OF VAN GARDNER, VICE CHAIRMAN, EASTERN NEVADA LIVESTOCK GROUP

Mr. GARDNER. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich.

I'm Van Gardner, vice chairman of the Eastern Nevada Livestock Group.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me just 1 second. Will you pull the mike over there, please?

Mr. GARDNER. The Eastern Nevada Group is concerned about wilderness issues. Bills have been introduced that contain from 139,000 to 450,000 acres. This could be devastating to grazing and agricultural interests. It has been promised that grazing would be allowed in these bills, but looking over other situations we're not sure this will happen. While this has not happened in other wilderness and national parks, what assurance is there it will be retained in these wilderness areas? Example, a Gardnerville rancher has been denied access for maintenance and repairs with motorized vehicles on roads that were there previously. This is on his wilderness permit that was designated in 1964. Would we be restricted on grazing privileges so that it would not be economically feasible?

Water rights are very important for livestock, agriculture, wildlife, and culinary uses. Most of the water rights are privately owned and are being put to beneficial use, according to Nevada State statutes. We are concerned that these rights could be jeopardized. Example: Judge Kane's ruling on November 25, 1985 in Colorado made a ruling that would force the Forest Service in Colorado to establish the doctrine of reserve water rights in wilderness areas. Attorney General Brian McKay stated that ranchers, farmers, miners, State of Nevada communities and others could find their rights to use of Nevada's scarce water resources sharply restricted if the doctrine is upheld by the Supreme Court.

Hunting, mining, recreational, and all use would be in jeopardy. Wilderness designation will immediately close all existing roads now used for access into the prime use areas.

The amount of wilderness that is proposed is excessive, and we now have the Air Force bases, a naval air base, gunnery and bombing ranges, and low level waste dumps. Add this to proposed wilderness study areas for both Forest Service and the BLM and other withdrawals, and you are taking most of the choice land in the State. This amounts to about half the area of the State where people are restricted.

If lands now managed under multiple use by the U.S. Forest Service has potential wilderness characteristics, it is only because of the multiple-use concept which has proven to be a very beneficial tool.

In closing, if we're to have a designated wilderness or park, let's limit it to the least number of acres possible.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Cecil Garland.

STATEMENT OF CECIL GARLAND, ECHO, UT

Mr. GARLAND. Members of the committee, my name is Cecil Garland, and I'm from Echo, UT, on the east side of the Snake Range that is shared by both Utah and Nevada. I own and operate a cow-calf ranch. The demands for beef are not good now, and our indus-

try will spend several million dollars over the next few years advertising their product to the active young. Folks will be alienated from using red meat by the antagonisms of the livestock industry toward wilderness.

In 1946 I hitchhiked from the South, where I grew up, after getting out of the service in Nevada, I came to love the State and its wildlife and the great open spaces.

I worked in this State for 10 years, and three of my children were born here, and I love to hunt and fish and use this country.

It's easy for me to see now why I left the South and love this country so much. It's because in the South the space and the wildlife are mostly gone.

There's an elk lot but no elk; and there's an East and West Buffalo, but nobody has ever seen a buffalo. There's a Panther Creek and a Wolf Creek, and these animals are all gone. And there's a Pigeon River that pollutes the gray sterile mud. No pigeons had been there, hadn't been there for 50 years. The air is polluted with rotten eggs and smoke.

Some years ago I had a big lion treed down south of here and I laid up there through the night and kept warm with a good juniper fire, and I could hear the big trucks on Highway 93 when the dogs would get quiet in the middle of the night, and I realized that the greatest jeopardy to this country was not the fellow out there hunting but the encroachment of civilization that would continue in this country as it did where I grew up in the South.

So it really doesn't bother me very much to say no, we don't have enough wilderness. The best way to share the public lands of the West with the rest of the American public is for us who live in the West to know that we're going to have to share it.

And let me just say that the finest times that I ever had fishing and hunting and enjoying wildlife were in wilderness areas. I felt there are less restrictions.

As far as the wilderness areas being a single use, it's not a single use. Clean air comes from that, and good clean water comes from the wilderness areas. And if you think in the State of Nevada it's always going to stay as it is—and I would like to see it stay just as it is, too—it certainly is not because the encroachment of civilization is in cities, but they are perpetual, and they will continue to go. And if you don't think so, you just have to think back 2 or 3 years about MX, what MX would have done in this country and will do, and it will be replaced by something else.

So if you want to have the free Nevada, the free beautiful Nevada that we all love, Senator, you better find a way to protect good portions of it now because when the wilderness is gone, the ranching life that I choose and cherish in this country will be gone with it.

Thank you, sir.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please, no applause.

Mr. Tony Locke.

STATEMENT OF TONY LOCKE, SECRETARY, EASTERN NEVADA TRAPPERS AND FUR TAKERS

Mr. LOCKE. First I'd like to thank you for this opportunity today.

I'm Tony Locke. I'm secretary of the Eastern Nevada Trappers and Fur Takers. I'm speaking today on behalf of the membership of that association.

First we'd like it known that of the present wilderness proposals, we do support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill. However, our true feelings would lie with the proposal of no further wilderness in the State, our reasons being the rural economies of Nevada, like Ely, like Eureka, they were based and they still are based and they will continue to be based upon multiple use of the land, and you start to take the multiple use of the land away, pretty soon we don't have mines to work, pretty soon we don't have ranchers providing income.

We're not only trappers, we're also miners, ranchers, prospectors, oilfield workers, truck drivers, all base our lifestyles upon multiple use of the land.

We would urge you to continue to fight to preserve our lifestyles and livelihoods and once again we echo our support of your bill.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Locke follows:]

STATEMENT OF TONY LOCKE, SECRETARY, EASTERN NEVADA TRAPPERS AND FUR TAKERS

Honorable Senator Hecht, my name is Tony Locke and I am the Secretary of the Eastern Nevada Trappers & Fur Takers. My opinions are stated on behalf of the 50 members of said Assoc.

We wish it to be known that as trappers and as Nevadans, we oppose wilderness designation to any federal land in Nevada. We also oppose Mr. Reid's proposal for a Great Basin National Park here in White Pine County. Following are the reasons for our position.

As trappers, we oppose the park proposal for the obvious reason that trapping would not be allowed in the designated area. We oppose the wilderness designation for the same reason. While designation itself does not ban trapping, practical application would deem trapping impossible.

For many of our members, trapping during the winter months is their sole source of livelihood. And I might add, many of them do quite well at it. For these members, wilderness designation would make it economically unfeasible to set traps in these areas. Members wishing to trap in wilderness areas would be forced to hike into their sets, thereby spending much more time to check a greatly reduced number of traps. With the present 96 hour check law, (State imposed) it would prove impossible to run a trapline that would meet expenses, much less, show a profit.

The remainder of our members are those who trap as a hobby, or to supplement their incomes. Because of the 96 hour check law, these members are forced to set fewer traps in closer and more accessed areas. The check law forces these trappers to check their sets in the late afternoon after they get off work at their regular jobs. Late afternoon check trips often turn into late night check trips. Wilderness designation to areas trapped by these members would make it impossible for them to even check their sets, if they were forced to hike into them.

The members of the E.N.T.&F.T. oppose wilderness and parks in Nevada not only as trappers, but also as integral components of a rural Nevada economy. Our membership is made up of ranchers, miners, prospectors, oil field workers, etc. Our livelihood and that of our economy is based upon multiple use of Nevada's lands. We all realize how a wilderness land lock-up would affect our community. Without the mines, ranches, etc. White Pine County has no need for grocery stores or restaurants, newspapers or clothing stores, gas pump attendants of trappers. The list goes on.

As Nevadans, we urge you to continue to fight to preserve our lifestyles and livelihoods. Given a choice of the present wilderness proposals (and we stress present), the E.N.T.&F.T. supports the "Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich" proposal. However, we

urge consideration of further reductions in both size and number of areas being considered for wilderness designation.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Van Gardner, you brought up a point that I really can't answer, but it's a very, very important point.

I'm not an attorney, but a lot of cattlemen have said that it's going to get to the point that they are going to have to check with their attorneys before they can graze their cattle. So you're not the first one who has brought that up. I can't answer all of your questions. We'll have to see what the grazing rights of the cattlemen are in the finished bill, if there is one.

Do you have anything you want to add, Barbara?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No questions. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Next panel: Ms. Nancy Swallow, Mr. George Chachas, Ms. Diane Siebert, Mr. Barry Price, Mr. Bud Hendricks, Mr. Lou Hansen or Mr. Allan Hansen. And we're accommodating Mr. Rey Nystrom and Ms. Ann Patton because they have to leave due to serious illness in the family.

OK, let's proceed. Miss Nancy Swallow.

STATEMENT OF NANCY M. SWALLOW, EASTERN NEVADA REALITY, ELY, NV

Ms. SWALLOW. Thank you, Senator Hecht, I haven't been a Miss for a long time, but I appreciate the compliment.

Senator HECHT. Let me look again. M-s.

Ms. SWALLOW. That means Miss or Mrs.

Senator HECHT. It wasn't clear. So, anyway, that's not on your time, for clarification.

Ms. SWALLOW. I appreciate your coming to Nevada. This is a very important issue to the people of this State, and I'm glad that people are able to participate in public hearings here.

My name is Nancy M. Swallow. I'm a realtor and businesswoman in White Pine County, and I'm speaking on behalf of Eastern Nevada Reality located in Ely.

I've spent the majority of my life in this county, and perhaps this is selfish, but I feel like I have just as much right if not more than the Garden Club of Gardena or the Bunny Huggers of Southern Nevada.

I have a strong oposition to the establishment of the wilderness area and the Great Basin Park as set forth in Congressman Reid's bill. I think this acreage excessive.

I did some calcualtions and discovered that the proposed area that they are wanting to set aside would be as large as 1.4 times the entire State of Rhode Island.

Evidently there is a philosophy that man and his machines cannot get along with the land, they are not compatible. I don't think this is correct.

We've had a good management of the public lands for many, many years, and the multiple use concept has been a good concept.

I became aware since the House hearing here in November that Congressman John Seiberling has been introducing and re-introducing a piece of legislation called the Parks Protection Act, and evidently this piece of legislation provides for a buffer zone. The

most recent is a 10-mile buffer zone, yet when the subcommittee for the House was here, the buffer zones were brought up by several people, and I'm sure that the chairman of that subcommittee was aware that this type of legislation was being brought up occasionally, and he didn't even addres it. He said that national parks don't require buffer zones.

And my point is bringing this up is that I'm not totally sure that we're being leveled with by the people who are in the know. Perhaps those who support this type of legislation are not going to tell the people the truth until something like this is put into place.

I appreciate the opportunity of commenting. If I had my druthers, I probably would not support—I definitely would not support the national park, and I'm not in favor of wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. George Chachas.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE CHACHAS, WHITE PINE HOTEL/MOTEL ASSOCIATION

Mr. CHACHAS. Thank you. Honorable Members of Congress, my name is George Chachas. I'm a former employee of the now closed Kenecott Copper operation located in Gill, NV. I now help operate a family business in Ely, and I'm spokesman for the White Pine Hotel/Motel Association.

The association would like to see the creation of the Great Basin National Park for the benefit of all citizens and, at the same time, ask the Congress to take due regard to help mitigate those negative impacts which may be incurred by some area residents, ranchers, and miners located in or near the proposed park area.

The concept of the park is to hopefully preserve in an orderly manner the natural setting for future generations to enjoy, those being local residents as well as citizens located throughout this great country who appreciate that particular beauty found on Mt. Wheeler and the Lehman Cave area.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I'm not going to make another mistake. I'm just going to say Diane Siebert.

STATEMENT OF DIANE SIEBERT, RUTH, NV

Ms. SIEBERT. Hello. My name is Diane Siebert. I'm an author of children's books. My remarks represent my personal feelings.

I admit that I'm a relative newcomer to White Pine County. I moved here because of the beauty this land has to offer. I came into this park controversy with an open mind.

I've been running the roads of this country, hiking the back trails. What I found is trash: junk cars, cans, bottles. It's not caused by tourists, but by people who live here. But I'm not here to talk about dumping.

I would just like to say that this is a symptom of a much larger problem. I don't think many people here care about the land. I don't think they understand it. They only think of it in terms of personal use and financial gain.

People who are against the Great Basin National Park speak of freedoms and rights, their right to mine and ranch, hunt and trap,

to cut wood, cut trees, use off-road vehicles. What they are speaking of is taking and using. They don't often speak of giving back for preservation.

I have been to national parks all over America, and every visit was a wonderful, educational experience. It is good to know that, at a time when the Earth's population is increasing and the land is being eaten up by development, these areas of beauty are being saved for the people.

I think it's important for this tiny area of White Pine County, Only 3 percent is what I have here, only one-quarter of 1 percent of the State lands to be protected. This land belongs to the Government, and therefore to all of us. I think it should be saved for many people to enjoy, rather than allow it to be exploited by a few who are interested only in financial gain.

I would also like to say that this obsession with the past, with how things used to be, and these empty dreams that the good old days are coming back are not doing the area any good.

We keep hearing "historically mining" and "historically ranching," but that was a long time ago. It worked then, but please look around now; see our pot-hole streets, our swimming pool that's closed, the Ruth School that's closing, the decrease in population, and the fact that we only have two police officers—which is all we can afford—on duty in any shift, to cover 10,000 miles of highway.

I believe that the Great Basin National Park would help out the people of this county—we need a gift—and I think it would help out the State so it might be known for more than just gambling and prostitution. I think it would be a gift to America. I think we need to look to the future. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Barry Price.

Mr. EBBNER. Barry asked me to deliver this.

Senator HECHT. You can just give it, then.

Mr. EBBNER. I'll just make a comment. He's in favor of the H.R. 3302 and the National Park.

[The prepared statements of Ms. Siebert and Mr. Price follow:]

HONORABLE CHIC HECHT
United States Senator

My name is Diane Siebert and I am an author of children's books. My remarks represent my personal feelings.

I am a relative newcomer to White Pine County. I moved here because of the beauty this land has to offer. I came into this park controversy with an open mind.

I have been running the roads and hiking the back trails of White Pine County, and I have found a great deal of beauty. Unfortunately, I have also found trash, tons of it, scattered all over -- everything from beer cans and bottles to sacks of garbage to junked cars. I would like to make it clear that this pollution is being caused by White Pine County residents, NOT tourists.

However, I am not here to talk about dumping and littering, except to say that this is a symptom of a much larger problem which exists in this area: many people here just do not care about the land. They think of it only in terms of personal gain.

Those people who are against the Great Basin National Park speak of freedoms and rights: their right to ranch and mine, hunt and trap the wildlife, cut down the trees, and use off-road vehicles. What they are speaking of is "taking." Taking and using. Taking from the land and using for their own benefit. But they never seem to mention "giving back" to the land, or caring for the land, or protecting the land.

I have been to national parks all over America, and every visit was a wonderful, educational experience. It is good to know that, at a time when the earth's population is increasing and the land is being eaten up by development, these parks, these small areas of beauty, are being saved for all people to share now and in the future without threat of destruction. And I believe it is very important for this tiny area -- only 3% of White Pine County land and only 25/100 of 1% of the state lands -- to be protected. This land belongs to the government, and therefore, to everyone in America. It should be saved for many people to enjoy, rather than allow it to be exploited by those few people who are interested only in themselves and their own personal and financial gain, with no thought to the future.

I would also like to add that this obsession with the past, with how things used to be, and these empty dreams that the good old days are coming back aren't doing the area any good.

We keep hearing "historically mining" and "historically ranching." That was a long time ago. It worked then, but take

a look around now. Our economy here in White Pine County is in such great shape that, according to the undersheriff, we can only afford to have two police officers on duty at any one time to patrol 10,000 miles of highways; the swimming pool is in dire straits; the Ruth elementary school is closing; and the population of this county has apparently dropped below 7,000.

The Great Basin National Park would not only help out the people of this whole county, but the state as well. And it will be a source of joy and pride to people from everywhere who come to visit.

We must look ahead to the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Siebert
Diane Siebert
P.O. Box 262
Ruth, NV 89319

STATEMENT on H.R. 3302 and S.B. 722

by Barry A. Price, P.O. Box 1071, Ely, Nevada 89301

February 10, 1986

I am speaking today in favor of H.R. 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Bill. I feel this is a stronger piece of legislation than its counterpart, S.B. 722. In particular, I strongly favor Title II of H.R. 3302 on the creation of a Great Basin National Park, and most of my comments are addressed to the park issue.

I am a self-employed businessman involved in several public projects including the Nevada Northern Railway project and the White Pine Public Museum, of which I am Chairman of the Board of Directors. Clearly, these and many other projects and organizations with which I am involved stand to benefit tremendously by the establishment of a Great Basin National Park.

We have the opportunity to become the first and only National Park in the state of Nevada. This is an opportunity and a responsibility we cannot afford to pass up. For all of us involved in economic development in White Pine County, and particularly those of us working to promote tourism, to be opposed to the National Park seems absurd. This is exactly the kind of project we need. When combined with the railroad project, with the Georgetown Ranch, and with the other potential projects we have, this could make White Pine County a destination rather than a place people pass through on their way somewhere else. And at a time when the county is pursuing every kind of economic development it can get, it seems ridiculous to turn away from such an offer.

By having a National Park, we will receive the kind of national publicity and attention we have never received before. We will appear prominently on maps, in brochures, pamphlets, and other promotional literature produced at absolutely no cost to us. The economic value of this kind of publicity will far outweigh any promotion we could undertake ourselves, even with the assistance of various grants. When people nationwide find out about Nevada's second highest mountain, about the Great Basin glacier, and about the bristlecone pine, the world's oldest living thing, they will come here in significant numbers.

In truth, no one can accurately estimate how many will come until the Park Service completes its General Management Plan, but we do have comparative figures to give us some idea. The Utah National Parks attract between 100,000 and

1.4 million visitors annually.[1] The largest of these in terms of attendance, Zion National Park, is only 150 miles from Mt. Wheeler. Even if we are conservative and estimate that only 100,000 people would eventually visit a Great Basin National Park annually, that is still a threefold increase over the current visitorship at Lehman Caves National Monument. That is a significant increase, and we could and should expect a significant positive economic impact as a result.

To those who say we could effect this kind of increase in visitorship on our own, I can only say that having a National Park does make a difference. Tour groups organized by travel agents and tour guides are the major source of visitors to parks. Our local tourism committee has tried to promote this area with such groups, and their first question is "Do you have a National Park?" When we say no, they look elsewhere.

Opponents of the park have been well-organized and vocal, but they are not necessarily the majority. Clearly, the residents of Baker are not in favor of the idea. While I respect their position, I must point out that the 200 or so residents of Baker represent only 2% of the total population of this county. Not exactly a majority.

You've heard strong opposition from the mining lobby, who would lead you to believe that wilderness or a National Park will mean the end of mining, our economic mainstay. Well it may be true that mining once was the economic mainstay of this county, but unfortunately that is no longer the case. The state's own economic profile of White Pine County shows that mining is not now the basis of our economy, nor has it been since 1980. In the past five years wholesale and retail trade, government, and the service industries have all employed more people than mining.[2] While mining has continuously declined, these others have steadily grown. These are the businesses which keep this county alive, and these are the ones which stand to benefit from the National Park.

Moreover, I have to question the true mineral value of the area proposed for the park. It is true that there are some active claims in the area, and these would be protected in the proposed bill. But their production has been minor when compared to Osceola, Sacramento, and the other mining districts outside the park boundaries which have made substantial mineral production since the 1870s. If these claims within the proposed park are really so valuable, why

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1 National Park Service figures for 1984.

2 White Pine County Profile, State of Nevada, Office of Community Services, 1985.

haven't they been more fully developed in the past 120 years?

You've also heard the ranchers voice concerns over their grazing rights. This is perhaps the most legitimate of all concerns expressed. While the bill provides for continued rights to graze the 571 cattle and 2437 sheep currently allowed to graze in the Snake Division, I feel this right should be more clearly guaranteed by allowing those permittees who so desire to negotiate lifetime tenancy, as has been done at Point Reyes in California and several other Park Service facilities. If this could be accomplished, then the ranching interests and the Park interests could coexist without conflict.

You've heard our County Commission voice concern over the impact of the park on their budget. But I must ask, have the Commissioners considered the positive impacts on the county budget, or do they look only for negatives? What about the increased gasoline tax and motel room tax revenues which would go to the county coffers from these same tourists? What about the increased property taxes from all the construction they predict? Wouldn't these balance the projected expenses?

The White Pine Sportsmen and Eastern Nevada Trappers and Furtakers oppose both park and wilderness vocally. But these folks have the entire 6 million acres in this County in which to pursue their hobby. Why should their 48 members selfishly oppose this resolution, particularly when by their own admission only 20%, some 8 or 9 people, actually trap in the areas in question. These trappers and hunters know best of all that the population of small game is dwindling. They should support this bill; <u>true</u> sportsmen support conservation, because it ultimately increases the available game.

Others have voiced concern over the loss of Christmas trees, pine nuts, and fuelwood, the collection of which would be prohibited within the park boundaries. But Forest Service figures indicate that the total of these resources collected in the Snake Division constitutes only 10% of the total collected in the Ely Ranger District as a whole.[3] These same resources are available in equal or greater abundance in other parts of the Forest, as well as on the millions of acres of BLM-administered land which is not effected at all by this proposal.

In closing, let me ask this Committee not to be misled by the small but vocal and well-organized minority who would lead you to believe that everyone for 300 miles in any direction is opposed to this resolution. That is not the

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[3] Ely Ranger District information package, 1985.

case. There are many, many people who believe that setting aside this small portion of our county (only 3% of a total 5.7 million acres) will greatly benefit the county, the state, and the nation.

Conditions in White Pine County are very different now from what they were in 1960, the last time the park issue was brought before the public. There are many who opposed the concept then but now favor it. Indeed, there are many who are now sorry they didn't support the idea in 1960. Perhaps our economic condition would be different now if they had.

A National Park will help our community achieve the balanced economy which has eluded us for so long. The mining which was our economic mainstay for so many years can no longer sustain us, and we recognize that we must have a more diversified economic profile if we are to survive. Tourism, agriculture, mining, and other industries must all play a part.

As we enter a global economy in which the price of gold in New York and London or the price of copper in Chile directly effects people in White Pine County, we can no longer afford to ignore the public image which Nevada has gained over the years. If we want to attract people and industry to our state, we must counter the concept of Nevada as a desert wasteland where anything goes if you can pay the price. People around the world must know that Nevada is a land of beauty, and that the beauty is preserved in parks and wilderness for all to enjoy.

I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 3302 as it now stands.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Bud Hendricks—not here. OK, we'll go on. Mr. Lou Hansen.

STATEMENT OF LOU HANSEN, BERYL, UT

Mr. HANSEN. Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich: A pleasure to be here today, and I appreciate this opportunity.

The proposal of a national park brings mixed feelings among the mining industry of the Osceola area due to the fact that all those concerned were not properly informed of the public congressional hearings in Ely on November 25, 1985; only a minor representation of the mining industry was established.

However, an invitation to reply by letter is appreciated and, as a concerned gold miner, I will extend my views.

I have two claims totaling 152.5 acres. I have concluded at $6 to $10 per yard in gold ore.

In addition, the gravel can be screened and washed for commercial use at $2 per yard.

Good quality gravel is a scarce commodity in the Ely area, and the White Pine County Department of Highways is investigating the possibility of using gravel from that area.

In the spring of 1986 the highway department plans to begin resurfacing the stretch of road from the Mason Place junction to the Osceola turnoff, requiring some 65 thousand yards of material, not to mention other parts of the highways in White Pine County that are in bad need of repair. In fact, any and all of the highways involving travel to Ely have certain stretches ranging from 10 to 50 miles long that are so rough that a great deal of travel in Nevada is preferred to be on I-80 and I-15, thereby passing depressed Ely.

The possibility of eventual repair of these roads with the use of Osceola gravel could result in a positive impact to the economy of Ely, as well as additional profits to the miners in the area.

The history of gold mining proved to be the major factor in the very existence of the success of California becoming part of the United States.

A few years later, Nevada became a State, directly relating to the general wealth discovered there.

For these factors only, mining should not be forgotten but preserved as much as anything else.

If a national park must become a reality, let it be in a manner not to affect the future mining possibilities of Osceola. We miners were led to believe that if the national park proposal was enacted, we would not be affected if we had valid existing claims.

Senator HECHT. You have to summarize it now; your time is up.

Mr. HANSEN. We would like some assurance that our mining interests will be protected and allowed to continue.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Rey Nystrom.

STATEMENT OF REY NYSTROM

Mr. NYSTROM. Senator, Congresswoman, I'm going to deviate a little bit from my prepared statement.

Senator HECHT. Just submit it for the record.

Mr. NYSTROM. Right, I did that.

I live in Jerome, ID. I came to Idaho from California because of the Jarbidge area in northern Nevada. We have a summer home site there. The wife and I intend, one day real soon, to be able to build our permanent home there.

Jarbidge has the only wilderness in the State of Nevada, officially designated wilderness. It was declared such in 1964. I'd like to give a couple of observations that I've been able to make since that time.

First of all, we've been coming to that area since 1955, we've spent a lot of time there. That wilderness area is beautiful, it's gorgeous, but it's untouchable. There were no roads there, there are no roads there, and there never will be any roads there. It's physically impossible. And also there are no people there.

From my own personal observations, and I spend at least 50 to 70 days per year in that area, right adjacent to that wilderness, I can count on my fingers and toes all of the people that have been in that wilderness; and most of those have been employees of the Federal Forest Service.

My personal views are that we do not need any additional wilderness, particularly in the Jarbidge area. I will not comment on other areas of the State because I'm not familiar with those.

And I want to make one further observation: That since that wilderness was designated, the Forest Service has closed roads that would get people close to that wilderness, not in the wilderness area but what we fear might become a buffer zone.

They have torn down or are in the process of tearing down old mining cabins and mining sites and trying to make it look like nobody was ever there, and I oppose it on those grounds.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Nystrom follows:]

FROM : REY NYSTROM 204N 100E JEROME, IDAHO 83338 (208) 324-2464
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY REGARDING WILDERNESS EXPANSION, ESPECIALLY IN THE JARBIDGE AREA OF THE HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST. PRESENTATION TO BE GIVEN AT ELY, NEVADA 2-10-86.

THIS BEING MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ANY OF OUR CONGRESSMEN HAS CAUSED ME TO DO QUITE A BIT OF THINKING.

WE WERE ASKED TO COME HERE AND GIVE OUR VIEWS ON THE WILDERNESS ISSUE AMD I UNDERSTAND TO URGE SUPPORT FOR THE LAXALT. HECHT AND VUCANOVICH BILL.

SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW WHERE I AM COMMING FROM, LET ME FILL YOU IN. MY PERSONAL CONCERN IS WITH THE JARBIDGE AREA. I KNOW THAT CONGRESS HAS TO CONSIDER THE TOTAL ISSUE AND I HOPE THAT ALL OF OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE SHOWING THE SAME INTEREST AS THOSE HERE TODAY.

GETTING DOWN TO SPECIFICS, I FIRST CAME TO THE JARBIDGE AREA IN 1955 TO HUNT DEER. THE HUNTING WAS GREAT AND THE COUNTRY JUST GRABBED ME AND HAS NEVER LET GO. ONLY TWICE IN THE PAST 31 YEARS HAVE I NOT RETURNED TO 'MY' MOUNTAINS. I HAVE WALKED IN PLACES THAT MADE ME FEEL THAT NO ONE HAD EVER WALKED THERE BEFORE. I SO LOVED THIS WILD AND WONDERFUL AREA THAT I JUST HAD TO SHARE IT WITH MY LOVED ONES. MY WIFE AND SONS HAVE COME TO THE SAME FEELING. IN 1979 MY WIFE AND I MOVED TO SOUTHERN IDAHO FROM CALIF. SO WE COULD SPEND MORE TIME IN JARBIDGE AND THE MOUNTAINS. WE HAVE PROPERTY IN JARBIDGE AND HOPE TO MAKE OUR HOME THERE ONE DAY SOON.

MOST OF MY LIFE WAS SPENT IN NO. CA. AND WE ALWAYS ENJOYED CAMPING, HUNTING, FISHING AND ESPECIALLY THE MOUNTAIN SCENERY. THERE IS SCENERY IN CA. EQUAL TO JARBIDGE OR ANY OTHER PLACE, HUNTING AND FISHING TOO CAN BE QUITE GOOD. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT JARBIDGE, THE PEOPLE AND THE CLOSENESS OF IT'S HISTORY. AND MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, THE ACCESSABILITY.
BY ACCESSABILITY I MEAN BEING BOTH PHYSICALLY ABLE TO REACH THE PLACES, AND MENTALLY BEING ABLE TO IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE. WHEN YOU HAVE WALKED FOR HOURS NOT SEEING ANYONE OR ANYTHING TO REMIND YOU OF PEOPLE THAT IS SOMETHING---BUT THEN YOU FIND SOME

REMAINS OF AN OLD CAMP AND THAT FOR ME IS WHEN THE DREAMS BEGIN. HOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN --- WHO WERE THOSE THAT CAME AND WHAT WERE THEY LOOKING FOR?

WHAT A THRILL IT IS TO BE ABLE TO DRIVE THROUGH THIS COUNTRY AND STILL BE ABLE TO FIND TRACES OF OUR HISTORY. FOR THE MOST PART ONLY THE ELEMENTS ARE DESTROYING THOSE OLD RELICS, SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH MAN HAS LEFT THEM PRETTY WELL INTACT.

SEEMS LIKE I'm GETTING OFF THE ISSUE---WILDERNESS. WELL, JARBIDGE HAS A WILDERNESS AREA, TO DATE THE ONLY ONE IN THE STATE, I HAVE LOOKED INTO IT, I HAVE WALKED ALONG A BIG PART OF IT'S WESTERN BOUNDARY, BUT HAVE NEVER BEEN IN IT. WHY? BECAUSE IT IS TOO INACCESSABLE--MOST OF THE OLD ROADS HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO VEHICLES AND THERE JUST ISN'T TIME TO GET IN AND OUT IN ONE DAY. AT LEAST NOT FAR ENOUGH TO APPEAL TO ME.

SO WHAT I HOPE IS THE POINT OF ALL THIS IS, THAT WHILE I ENJOY WHAT I IMAGINE TO BE WILD AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO REACH IT AND SHARE IT.
I AM SURE THE INTENT OF THOSE FAVORING WILDERNESS IS PURE, BUT IT IS SELFISH AND UNREALISTIC.

WHAT GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO DO BEST IS SPEND OUR MONEY AND PUT RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT WE CAN DO. I SAY---LET'S PRESERVE AMERICA --STRENGHTHEN THE ECONOMY, LET THE PEOPLE USE THEIR LAND, AND LET THOSE WHO WOULD SAVE THE WORLD, DO IT WITH SOMEONE ELSES TAX DOLLARS.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Ann Patton from Jarbidge.

STATEMENT OF ANN PATTON

Mrs. PATTON. My name is Ann Patton. My husband and I live in Jarbidge, and we want to keep it the way it is. To put it simply, we do not want to be locked out of our own front yard. That is what they would be doing if the Sierra Club is allowed to push this down our throats and get their bill passed.

There is absolutely no need for additional wilderness in our area. The current wilderness is more than adequate. However, we could accept the Laxalt and Hecht and Vucanovich bill with some important modifications.

Leave the western boundaries of the Jarbidge area as it is. We, the residents of Jarbidge, would like to keep the land open for multiple use.

Some of the boundaries of the proposed new wilderness would create severe hardships on so many: miners, ranchers, hunters, fishermen, picnickers, geologists, and residents.

The road and trails are our main access. We depend on this land to supply many of our needs: fuel for the winter months, meat, fish, and for our recreation. For a small community, there is a surprising number of skiers, snowmobilers and off-road vehicles who come to Jarbidge to take part in these sports. They contribute to the economy of the town.

They too use the area that the Sierra Club and Seiberling want to lock up. Why? So that it can be used by only a handful of people. Why should we who live in Jarbidge, and all the people who come to Jarbidge to hunt and fish and enjoy the area in general, lose all of this to please a small group of people?

If the boundries of this wilderness are increased to what the Sierra Club and the Reid-Seiberling bill wants, we will not only lose our way of life but also part of our means of life.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and for listening to our side.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Patton follows:]

SENATE BILL HEARING S722
FEBRUARY 10, 1986
ELY, NEVADA

MY NAME IS ANN PATTON. BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I ARE PROPERTY OWNERS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF JARBIDGE. WE FIRST CAME TO THE JARBIDGE AREA IN 1962. SINCE THAT TIME IT HAS BEEN OUR DESIRE TO LIVE AND RETIRE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PART OF NEVADA. OUR HOPES AND DREAMS CAME TRUE IN 1980. NOW OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF HUNTING, FISHING, SNOWMOBELING AND OFF ROAD R.V.'s.

WE ARE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO ANY ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS AREA. BUT WE KNOW WE MUST MAKE A CONCESSION. TO PUT THIS SIMPLY, WE DO NOT WANT TO BE "LOCKED OUT" OF OUR FRONT YARD! AND THAT IS WHAT THEY WILL BE DOING, IF THE SIERRA CLUB AND SIEBERLING PUSH THIS DOWN OUR THROATS AND GET THEIR BILL PASSED. THEREFORE WE WILL BE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS. WE WILL SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL OF LAXALT, HECHT AND VUCANOVICH IF THEY WILL LEAVE THE WESTERN BOUNDRY AS IS.

WE, AND THE RESIDENTS OF JARBIDGE, BOTH PERMANENT AND SUMMER, WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE LAND OPEN FOR MULTIPLE USE. SOME OF THE BOUNDRIES OF THE PROPOSED NEW WILDERNESS WOULD CREATE SEVERE HARDSHIPS ON ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

NO: 1 MINERS: HAVE VALID CLAIMS IN THE AREAS TO BE ADDED TO THE PRESENT WILDERNESS. THEY SAY THE ASSAY REPORTS INDICATE VALUABLE CLAIMS. THESE AREAS ARE REACHED BY ROADS THAT HAVE EXISTED SINCE GOLD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN THE CANYON. IF THE OLD SOUTH CANYON ROAD IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED NEW WILDERNESS, OR IN A BUFFER ZONE, THESE CLAIMS COULD NEVER BE WORKED.

NO: 2 RANCHERS: THERE ARE SEVERAL RANCHERS THAT RUN SHEEP AND CATTLE IN THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS. THERE ARE ROADS AND TRAILS IN THESE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN IN EXISTANCE FOR MANY MANY YEARS. THEY USE THEM TO MOVE LIVE STOCK, BRING IN SALT BLOCKS, MAINTAIN WATER TANKS AND PONDS, HAUL IN FEED, LET CAMP TENDERS GET SUPPLIES TO THE HEARDERS. THERE ARE LINE CAMPS AND CABINS THAT ARE USED BY BOTH HEARDERS AND COWBOYS. ALL OF THIS AND MORE WOULD BE LOST AND CREATE A GREAT HARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL LOSS TO THESE PARTIES THAT HAVE USED THE AREA FOR GENERATIONS.

NO: 3 HUNTERS AND FISHERMAN: THE SAME ROADS AND TRAILS I MENTION ARE MAIN ACCESS ROADS TO THE BEST HUNTING AND FISHING COUNTRY IN NEVADA. THIS COUNTRY THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO (LOCK UP) IS USED BY PEOPLE FROM CALIFORNIA, IDAHO, RENO, LAS VEGAS JUST TO MENTION A FEW. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE OWN PROPERTY IN JARBIDGE AND SPEND MUCH TIME HERE.

NO: 4 CAMPERS AND PICNICERS: THE AREA IS USED ALL SEASONS OF THE YEAR. TOURISTS FROM ALL OVER COME INTO THE AREA JUST TO CAMPOUT, GO SIGHT SEEING, WATCH THE DEER IN THE EARLY MORNING OR EVENING. SOME TAKE THEIR CARS ON SOME OF THESE ROADS, OTHERS HAVE PICKUPS. THERE ARE MANY ROADS AND TRAILS. THESE PEOPLE GO FOR A DRIVE, STOP AND GET OUT, HAVE A PICNIC, TAKE PICTURES, EXPLORE AN OLD CABIN, GET BACK IN THEIR VEHICLES AND GO FURTHER. WHY LOCK THESE PEOPLE OUT OF AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

NO: 5 WINTER SPORTS: FOR A SMALL COMUNITY THERE IS A SURPRISING NUMBER OF SKIERS, SNOW MOBILERS AND OFF ROAD R.V.'s, THAT COME TO JARBIDGE TO TAKE PART IN THESE SPORTS. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECOMOMY OF THE TOWN. THEY TOO USE THE AREA THAT THE SIERRA CLUB AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO (LOCK UP) SC IT CAN BE USED BY ONLY A HANDFULL OF PEOPLE.

NO: 6 ARCHEOLOGY: THERE ARE SEVERAL KNOWN SITES THAT ARCHEOLGISTS HAVE NEVER EXPLORED. ARE WE GOING TO LOSE THIS KNOWLEGE AND HISTORICAL SITES TO PLEASE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT 90% OR MORE HAVE NEVER EVEN SEEN THIS COUNTRY? MANY ARE NOT EVEN FROM NEVADA, AND THERE ARE PROBABLY A LOT OF THEM WHO NEVER EVEN HEARD OF JARBIDGE, OR THE JARBIDGE WILDERNESS.

NO: 7 RESIDENTS: WE LIVE HERE AND WANT TO KEEP IT THE WAY IT IS. WE DEPEND ON THIS LAND TO SUPPLY MANY OF OUR NEEDS. FUEL IN THE WINTER, MEAT AND FISH. ALSO FOR OUR RECREATION AND RECREATION FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. IF THE BOUNDRIES OF THIS WILDERNESS ARE INCREASED TO WHAT THE SIERRA CLUB AND REID SIEBERLING WANT, WE WILL NOT ONLY LOSE OUR WAY OF LIFE, BUT ALSO PART OF OUR MEANS OF LIFE

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO OUR SIDE

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Mrs. Swallow, you brought up something and Tony just gave me an answer.

The House has passed park protection legislation—two different Congresses—and the Senate has never taken it up. So does that explain your question?

Ms. SWALLOW. Right, except the concern I had is that when the House was here the chairman, who I'm sure was aware of that, did not say to the people in the audience, "Yes, there's been legislation put through, I even voted on it," which I'm sure he did. He didn't do that because he didn't want the people to think that there would be buffer zones.

We were assured that there wouldn't be buffer zones and it wouldn't affect the power project, and that's not true. You know, if it ever got totally through the Congress, we'd be up a creek.

Senator HECHT. Well, that's why we're out here to have a hearing, so you can express your concerns on this.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I have no questions, thank you.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Nystrom, you're a resident of Idaho?

Mr. NYSTROM. Yes.

Senator HECHT. I've accommodated you by hearing you; now I ask for a favor from you. Go back and help my good friend Steve Symms.

Mr. NYSTROM. I was supporting him before I left California.

Senator HECHT. OK. No further questions. Thank you all very much.

Panel No. 5. Ann Barber, Nick Perchetti, Dale Rattazzi, Bert Young, and Sue Murry.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I've been called on yet.

Senator HECHT. I apologize.

Mr. HANSEN. Allen Hansen.

Senator HECHT. It was either/or. Stay there, we'll get you on the next panel.

Mr. HANSEN. I'm sorry, I didn't realize how it was.

Senator HECHT. Just stay right where you are. I didn't mean to overlook you.

Mr. HANSEN. Well, this was kind of a late thing for us.

Senator HECHT. You'll be on the next panel. Is the next panel coming up?

Mr. CAMERON. Better read the names, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Ann Barber, Nick Perchetti, Dale Rattazzi, Bert Young, and Sue Murry.

Mr. YOUNG. Senator, Sue is out of town on business. I don't know about anybody else.

Senator HECHT. Well, just tell the rest of them to submit their statements, and what is your name?

Mr. YOUNG. I am Bert Young.

Senator HECHT. Bert?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Senator HECHT. We'll start off with you, then.

STATEMENT OF BERT YOUNG, ELY, NV

Mr. YOUNG. Senator Hecht, my name is Bert Young. I reside at 560 Stevens Street in the city of Ely, NV. I am here today to speak in favor of House Resolution 3302, the Nevada Wilderness and National Park Protection Act, and in opposition to Senate bill 722.

House Resolution 3302 will designate 14 areas in the Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forests as wilderness. It will also create a national park centered on Mount Wheeler, the highest mountain in eastern Nevada and the home of a magnificent stand of Bristlecone Pine, the oldest living trees on our planet.

Under House Resolution 3302, 939,400 acres of Forest Service land will be designated as wilderness. While this may sound like a lot, it is only 1.3 percent of the total area of Nevada. Adding the 174,000 acres of the proposed Great Basin National Park only increases this total to 1.6 percent of the area of the State. Small as this area is, it is of crucial importance. It contains all of Nevada's highest peaks, most of the State's alpine tundra, and much of its forest. It's a beautiful and fragile area, and it deserves protection.

From talking to people around Ely, and from reading the letters in the local paper, I have concluded that much of the opposition to the creation of the park and the wildernesses is based on false beliefs regarding what is or is not allowed in them.

Many people seem to believe that hunting, fishing, camping and grazing are not allowed in wilderness areas. In reality, all of these activities are allowed.

Regarding the creation of a park, these fears may be more justified. In section 202(d) of title II of the bill, it states: "The Secretary may permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985." This should be amended to read, "Grazing will be permitted within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985," thereby giving the permittees in the park the same rights that permittees in the wilderness areas have under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

In conclusion, Senator, I urge you to reconsider your support of Senate bill 722 which would only give partial protection to 137,000 acres of Nevada's wilderness and will not include such areas as the Shell Peaks and Kermit Mountain.

House Resolution 3302, on the other hand, would protect most of Nevada's alpine wilderness and provide Nevada with a national park that can serve as a focus of pride and inspiration for us all.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Before proceeding, please, if you have any conversation, walk out in the hall because there's a little bit too much rumbling going on. In fact, we're having a hard time. Mr. Allan Hansen.

STATEMENT OF ALLAN HANSEN, BERYL, UT

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, sir.

I'd just like to let the panel know that my grandparents and great-grandparents were among the people that come over during the very first settling of this country, and we have mining and ranching that has gone on in the family for over 100 years. If this

park goes through, we're going to be dead. It's going to wipe us out. We've got our lives tied up in these properties, and there are substantial properties.

This entire area of the Mount Wheeler district is full of strategic minerals. If we get our stategic minerals cut off from some of these other nations and we get involved in a war, where are you going to find minerals to fight our battles?

The metals that are used in the Space Program are metals that are in the Wheeler Peak, and they are strategic minerals and they need to be considered. The BLM and the Forest Service ground is not Government ground, it belongs to the people; that ground is the people's ground. But the thing that concerns me the most is, what's going to happen if the national debt can't be paid? The people that we borrow money from to run the Government now, and later down the road they say, "Hey, you can't pay your bills, we want all the ground that's been nationalized." If that happens, where are we going to be sitting then?

I'd like these things to be considered, and I'm going on record opposing the park completely and for the least possible amount of ground in the wilderness. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No questions. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Panel No. 6. Jay MacBeth, Bob Young, Richard Hatch, Alfred Buranek, and Don Birak.

Mr. Jay McBeth.

STATEMENT OF J.D. McBETH, VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGER OF OPERATIONS, CARLIN GOLD MINING CO.

Mr. MCBETH. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich: My name is J.D. McBeth, and I reside at 200 Juniper Street in Elko, NV. I thank you for allowing me time to express my views on the proposed legislation concerning the designation of additional wilderness areas in Nevada.

I have been employed in the minerals industry for the past 36 years, the last 20 of which has been at Carlin Gold Mining Co. in Eureka and Elko Counties in Nevada. I am now manager of operations at Carlin Gold.

The view I express today, Senator, is on behalf of Carlin Gold Mining Co. and, I would like to add, is supported by employees of Carlin Gold. There are presently 570 employees at Carlin Gold.

Simply stated, the view I express is that multiple use is the highest and most beneficial use of the land, and that reserving large acreages for wilderness is of minimal benefit to the population.

The approach to Nevada wilderness that is offered in the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill is a reasonable approach to additional wilderness and is supported by Carlin Gold Mining Co. and most of its employees.

If the Reid bill, providing for about 1 million acres of additional wilderness is passed, it would not affect the present status of Carlin Gold.

If the bill is passed, it may prevent the existence of a similar operation or operations. If the 6,500,000 acres under study should be

permanently withdrawn from mineral development, the preclusion possibilities are even greater.

To demonstrate the economic significance of a company such as Carlin Gold, I would like to present some economics facts.

Carlin Gold has been successfully and continuously operating in Eureka and Elko Counties since 1965. It has produced over 4 million ounces of gold. At the present price, this gold has a value of $1,348 million. During the period of 1962 to 1985 the company paid $86 million in payroll. It paid $19 million in State and local taxes and $124 million in Federal taxes. The company, during this time, purchased $132 million worth of goods and services other than direct payroll.

In 1985 Carlin Gold invested an additional $132 million to develop the Gold Quarry Operation which has been operating since July 1985. The present annual payroll is $18 million and an additional $41 million will be spent annually on goods and services. There are additional projects being considered, which could raise the total employment to over 800 people. This increase of 44 percent in employment would raise the annual payroll to $26 million.

The estimated local, State, and Federal taxes that will be paid by the company this year is $10 million.

Senator HECHT. Jay, you'll have to summarize your last statements.

Mr. MCBETH. Multiply this by 20-plus years that we expect to operate, they become quite large.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McBeth follows:]

Testimony of J. D. McBeth

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The company, during this time, purchased $132,000,000 worth of goods and services other than direct payroll.

In 1985 Carlin Gold invested an additional $132,000,000 to develop the Gold Quarry operation, which has been operating since July of 1985. This increased the number of employees to the present 570. The present annual payroll is $18,000,000 and an additional $41,000,000 will be spent annually on goods and services. There are additional projects being considered, which could raise the total employment to over 800 people. This increase of 44% in employment would raise the annual payroll to $26,000,000.

The estimated local State and Federal taxes that will be paid by the company this year is $10,000,000. When these annual numbers are escalated and multiplied by the 20 + years that we expect to operate, they become quite large.

We at Carlin Gold believe that the numbers stated are strong contributors to the economic good health of the State of Nevada.

In addition to the facts stated, I would like to offer some observations.

A special report on Nevada mining was presented on Reno Channel 2 television during this past week. The reporter pointed out that less than 1% of the land is occupied by mining. This was followed by an appearance and statement by Congressman Harry Reid. Congressman Reid stated, "They want all the land; over 99% is not enough for them. I have been reasonable and have shown a good faith effort to compromise, but I will not sell out future generations of Nevadan's to uncompromising corporate greed".

I submit that Congressman Reid is not only confused as to how much land is used by mining, but if Congressman Reid has put forth efforts to compromise, that the efforts have been directed towards Congressman Seiberling of Ohio and not the citizens of Nevada.

The compromise must have been between the 722,000 acres Congressman Reid first proposed and the 1,500,000 acres proposed by Congressman Seiberling of Ohio to arrive at the present 1,000,000 acres that he now proposes.

I also submit that in examining the word "greed", that it is not Nevada industry that seeks to set aside 1,000,000 areas of land in Nevada to single use, while an additional 6,500,000 is under study for possible wilderness.

The wilderness proposed by the Reid-Seiberling bill is excessive. The proponents of large withdrawals have surely dicided that regulating the minerals industry out of existence is too slow. They must believe that withdrawals of massive tracts of land from mineral entry is a more expeditions way of achieving their aims.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Bob Young.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT J. YOUNG, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

Mr. YOUNG. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich. It's a pleasure for me to visit your beautiful State of Nevada. My name is Robert Young. I'm employed with Exxon Co., USA at Houston, TX. But today I'm here to represent the American Petroleum Institute which I serve as chairman of its onshore committee which has an interest in onshore lands issues in the United States.

The API is an industry trade association of 230 member companies and over 6,000 individuals. I speak on their behalf today.

The API appreciates this opportunity to comment regarding this Nevada wilderness legislation and our industry fully recognizes and accepts the fact that the dedication of certain Federal lands to a single use such as wilderness can in some cases be in the national interest. But permanently designating land to a single purpose is not always the highest use of the lands.

We are concerned that the lands currently under consideration could be foreclosed to other uses before an adequate assessement of all their competing values could be made.

If the lands involved in this bill were in areas of low mineralogics, such closure prior to assessment might be argued to be justified. But that proposition is not true.

There will be members of our industry, the oil and gas industry as well as mining industries and various other resource uses, speaking to you today and through the balance of this week at the various hearings you're holding. Today I'm here solely, though, on behalf of our industry, the API, and its strong feeling that Government land use decisions, such as those you are to make, should recognize that oil and gas exploration activities have been and can be carried out without long-term adverse consequences, even in sensitive environments and without foregoing other concurrent activities on Government lands.

Decisions on the use of Government lands should be based on the most appropriate scientific evidence that's available at the time. In order to obtain such evidence, exploration activities wherever possible should be allowed to occur before these lands are placed off limits.

Our industry has the expertise and the technology and the equipment to search for oil and gas where the drill bit can determine its existence or absence and know whether recoverable amounts of petroleum are available to our country.

Our Nation cannot know what resources lie beneath these lands unless we fairly examine them and weigh the economic mineral and environmental values of these lands.

It's a pleasure for me to be able to present this position here today and, Senator and Congresswoman, I would like to commend each of you for the serious consideration that you're obviously giving your constituents in this major matter of importance, not only to the people of your State but to the United States.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Young follows:]

Testimony of

ROBERT J. YOUNG

on Behalf of the

AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

before the

Subcommittee on Public lands and Reserved Water

of the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

of the

United States Senate

on

S. 722

Ely, Nevada

February 10, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Robert J. Young with Exxon Company, U.S.A. I am representing the American Petroleum Institute, an industry trade association composed of 230 companies of all sizes and 6,000 individuals involved in all phases of the petroleum industry.

The American Petroleum Institute appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Nevada Wilderness Bill (S. 722). The petroleum industry fully recognizes and accepts the fact that the dedication of certain federal lands -- such as those in the present National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) -- can be in the national interest. We stress "can" because permanently designating lands to a single-purpose, such as wilderness, is not always the highest valued use of that land. And we are particularly concerned that the lands currently under consideration in Senate Bill 722 could be foreclosed to other uses before an adequate assessment of all of their competing values has been made.

Certainly, there are those who will argue that the acreage in this proposal represents only a small portion of the federal onshore domain and, as such, will have little impact on other uses. Just as surely, those who argued to establish the wilderness system in 1964 made the same assertions. But what started out as a 9-million acre system 22 years AGO has grown tenfold, until the current acreage of the NWPS has reached almost 90 million acres. Very little of this land was explored or inventoried for its mineral content -- including its crude oil

and natural gas resources -- before it was closed to such operations.

If the wilderness system, alone, comprised the only federal land withdrawal, the Nevada bill might be acceptable. Or, if the lands involved in this bill were in areas of low mineral potential, such closure prior to assessment might be justified. However, neither proposition is true.

At the beginning of this year -- in addition to the 89 million acres of designated wilderness -- there were some 43 million acres of national parklands outside of wilderness areas and 13 million acres of national wildlife refuges. These 145 million acres are formally closed to minerals operations. Another 45 million acres of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands and 15 million acres of miscellaneous Department of the Interior lands have been closed by administrative action.

There are 12 million acres of Forest Service lands and 25 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands under study or recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system that are effectively closed to mineral leasing. In addition, 58 million acres of national wildlife refuges in Alaska are under study for wilderness or under other restrictions and effectively closed to mineral leasing.

In these land categories alone, some 300 million acres -- more than 40 percent of all federal onshore lands -- have been closed or are effectively closed and may be permanently closed to mineral development. That, however, is not the full story. As much as 20 percent of all other federal onshore lands -- while officially "open" to oil and gas leasing under existing laws --

are so burdened by lease stipulations as to effectively close them to operations. Thus, it is estimated that as much as one-half of all federal onshore lands are either closed or severely restricted to oil and gas exploration and production.

What does this mean for America's mineral resources -- especially for its energy resources? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, federal onshore and offshore lands may contain as much as 85 percent of the nation's oil resources, 40 percent of its natural gas, 35 percent of its coal, 40 percent of the uranium, 85 percent of its tar sands, 80 percent of the oil shale and 50 percent of its geothermal resources. Most energy experts agree that federal lands contain at least one-half of the nation's remaining supplies of oil and gas. Most mineral experts agree, too, that the western states, including Alaska, hold the greatest promise for lessening the nation's current dependence on foreign sources for a number of a critical strategic minerals.

Nearly one-third of the oil the United States consumed in 1985 came from foreign sources. We imported oil and refined petroleum at a rate of some 5.5 million barrels a day. The U.S. stockpiles of a number of strategic minerals -- such as bauxite, cobalt, copper, germanium, iridium, nickel, palladium, titanium, vanadium and zinc -- remain far below the goals set by our government. Yet large amounts of oil and a number of these critical minerals are believed to lie under federal lands in the continental western states.

Government land use decisions should recognize that oil and gas exploration activities have been and can be carried out

without long-term adverse consequences, even in sensitive environments and without foregoing other concurrent activities on government lands. Decisions on the use of government lands should be based on the most appropriate scientific evidence available at the time. In order to obtain this scientific evidence, exploration activities wherever possible should be allowed to occur on government lands before those lands are placed off limits.

The petroleum industry has the expertise, the technology and the equipment to conduct such a search for oil and gas, where the drill bit is the final arbiter in the determination of the existence -- or the absence -- of recoverable amounts of petroleum.

But the nation cannot know and will not know what resources lie under those lands -- in Nevada or the other states -- without access to explore. And Congress cannot have and will not have the full information it will need to fairly weigh the economic, mineral and environmental values of those lands, if they are closed before adequate resource assessments are made.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Richard Hatch.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD K. HATCH, PRESIDENT, MT. MORIAH STONE, INC.

Mr. HATCH. My name is Richard Hatch. I'm here because there are some things your people should know or may not realize regarding the effects of a wilderness on most all of the mountain ranges in Nevada.

My quartzite quarry is located on the east slopes of Mount Moriah in eastern Nevada, one of the proposed wilderness mountains. It is the largest high quality natural dimension stone quarry deposit in the Nation.

There has never been a building stone quarry patented in the whole mining State of Nevada, ever. Now, if you really want to kill the State of Nevada, make the mountains a roadless wilderness. Wilderness is not for mobile Nevada, it is 100 percent against Nevada and its people. Wilderness mountains would be off limits to motorists, picnicking, vacationing in this vast Great American Desert. Without the mountains, we would have only desolation—hot, dry, depressing desolation, depradation.

Now listen to this. According to the Joint Center for Urban Studies at MIT and Harvard, the State of Massachusetts and much of the East will have a growth rate of only about 2 percent during the next 20 years. By contrast, the State of Nevada will have in the next 20 years a growth rate of 92 percent. The neighboring State of Utah will have a growth rate of 106 percent, and so on. San Diego is the No. 1 growth-rate city in the United States, nationally No. 1. You see, they do not have to go anywhere else to get out of bad weather. On the other hand, Denver and Salt Lake City enjoy their good and bad weather by skiing, camping, and picnicking, you name it, fishing, hunting, all in the beautiful high mountains only a refreshing hour's drive from home.

Nevada too has beautiful high mountains, but take away the roads other States enjoy to the mountain tops, and these mountains are off limits to motor vehicle traffic and, unlike San Diego, you only have desolation in this desert State.

So, here in the vast arid West we have now become a mobile, a vacation oriented, a motor vehicle people with a garage and shop and yard full of every vehicle and mobile gadget ever invented, and some we invented, ourselves, too. We Nevadans do not spend our summers and free time hiking up every mountain in 110-degree heat carrying the kitchen sink on our backs, leaving three or four trucks and campers at home. Instead, we drive up to the top of the mountains in a pickup, a camper, where it is cool and beautiful, pulling a boat, a trailer; and once there, we set up all our gear and gadgets and spend all of our free time enjoying life at its very best high on the cool mountaintop, not stumbling along behind the rear end of a jackass, climbing a dusty trail, dangling our Sierra cup and cooking gear on our belt with a sleeping pack on our back.

If you really want a beautiful Nevada, build beautiful new roads to those mountaintops as others have done elsewhere in North

America and develop and maintain beautiful recreational areas for people to enjoy; not a no-road wilderness. Nevada needs to develop and use every mountain she has, to grow, and prosper.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hatch follows:]

Wilderness S 722 Ely

MT. MORIAH STONE QUARRIES
THE MOST HEAVENLY STONE ON EARTH
NO. 10 HATCH ROCK RD. GANDY ROUTE GARRISON, UTAH 84728
TEL. QUARRY (801) 855-2110 IN CA. CALL (408) 739-6517

THE " I HAVE A WILDERNESS COMMUNE" DREAM PLOY

My name is Richard Hatch. I am here because there are some things your people should know or may not realize regarding the effects of a wilderness on most all of the mountain ranges in Nevada.

My quartzite stone quarry is located on the east slopes of Mt. Moriah in Eastern Nevada, one of the proposed wilderness mountains. It is the largest high quality natural dimension stone quarry deposit in the nation, producing a mica flagstone, slabs and bars, ashlar. This quartzite stone quarry was claimed back in 1954, has had a hard time attracting investment capitol because of a continuing line of common variety acts, questionable mining freezes and many other acts of Congress, the BL M, Forest Service, Wilderness buffs and other interests. They all have done a wonderful job stopping growth by changing the rules of the game.

There has never been a building stone quarry patented in the whole mining state of Nevada, ever. And Nevada, after all these years is still about 85% Public Domain. Except for two major cities, growth and development in Nevada has been held to a standstill, stagnant for the past fifty years. However, now things are looking up for Nevada and the rest of the arid West.

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So now, in order to stop this new growth, we are considering wilderness bills which if passed would remove most all mountain peaks from the reach of more than 99% of the people living in small towns and cities in Nevada. These wilderness bills will prohibit the Nevada population from taking a drive out of the sweltering desert heat in the arid treeless valleys to enjoy the cool, refreashing grandeur of our own mountain environment as others in neighboring states are privilidged to do.

In as much as these wilderness buffs' proposed wilderness mountain areas are today just as available to them as they would be under wilderness laws, why then, do these wilderness hikers demand wilderness yet ignore Nevada mountains today in favor of other areas under wilderness elsewhere? Is it because they demand an ego trip? A "wilderness" experience? In their mind a hike in an unknown mountain area is a nothing hike, but a hike on a real bonafide wilderness mountain is a great ego something.

Is this what we are giving up our mountains for? These wilderness bills are forced upon us by people who ride public transportation to work on the 15th floor of buildings located in our large polluted cities, not by Nevadans who drive several trucks and campers every day.

It is now almost 200 years after the "Marthas Vinyards" and the "Cultured Eastern States" were founded and yet we here in Nevada are just getting started. You in Congress have done a wonderful job these past years of delaying progress in the West. In Nevada, White Pine and Eureka Counties are among the lowest income, most depressed counties in the Nation and yet you Congressmen are still listening to the hypnotic

MT. MORIAH STONE QUARRIES
THE MOST HEAVENLY STONE ON EARTH
NO. 10 HATCH ROCK RD. GANDY ROUTE GARRISON, UTAH 84728
TEL. QUARRY (801) 855-2110 IN CA. CALL (408) 739-6517

songs of the no-growth anti-American West pleasure clubs.

Now listen to this. According to the Joint Center for Urban Studies at M I T and Harvard, the State of Massachusetts and much of the East will have a growth rate of only about 2% during the next 20 years. By contrast the State of Nevada will have a high growth rate of 92%. The neighboring State of Utah will have a growth rate of 106%, Idaho 91%. Wyoming 117%, the highest in the nation. The cities having the most promise in the nation are San Diego by the sea. Phoenix, in the great Grand Canyon State of Arizona, and denver and Salt Lake City nestled in the shadows of the Rocky Mountains where every one enjoys a refreshing drive thru the many beautiful canyons to the mountain tops for recreation. San Diego, the number one city of the nation for future growth and well within the fast growing Sun Belt area has it all; perfect weather, the ocean. Phoenix Arizona has wonderful winter weather and roads leading into the mountains and many other enchanting desert areas. The whole world envies Arizona.

The San Diego Chamber of Commerce just does not permit bad weather so San Diego is naturally number one in the nation . You see, they do not have to go anywhere else to get out of bad weather. On the other hand, Denver and Salt Lake City enjoy their good and bad weather by skiing, camping and picnicing, you name, fishing , hunting, all in the beautiful high mountains, only a refreashing hours drive from home.

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Nevada too has beautiful high mountains, but take away the roads other states enjoy to the mountain tops and place these mountains off limits to motor travel and unlike San Diego, you only have left desolation in this desert state of Nevada.

So, here in the vast arid West we have now become a mobile, a vacation oriented, a motor vehicle people with a garage and shop and yard full of every vehicle and mobile gadget ever invented and some we invented ourselves too. We Nevadans do not spend our summers and free time hiking up every mountain in 110 degree heat carrying the kitchen sink on our backs, leaving three or four trucks and campers at home. Instead we drive up to the top of the mountains in a pickup, a camper, where it is cool and beautiful, pulling a boat, a trailer and once there we set up all our gear and gadgets and spend all of our free time enjoying life at its very best high on the cool mountain top, not stumbling along behind the rear end of a jackass, climbing a dusty trail, dangling our Sierra Cup and cooking gear on our belt with a sleeping pack on our back.

Now, if you <u>really</u> want to kill the State of Nevada, make the mountains a roadless wilderness. Wilderness is not for mobile Nevada, it is 100% against Nevada and its people. Wilderness mountains would be off limits to motor picnicing, vacationing in this vast Great American Desert. Without the mountains we would have only stagnation, desolation, hot, dry depressing destlation, deprdation. Who is going to try climbing a mountai in 110 degree heat?

Wilderness S 722 5

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If you really want a beautiful Nevada, build beautiful new roads to these mountain tops as others have done elsewhere in North America and develope and maintain beautiful recreation areas for the people to enjoy. Not a no road wilderness. Nevada needs to develope and use every mountain she has to grow and prosper.

We already have the transportation, motor vehicles, campers and all the mobile gadgets in the world. We have the mountains.

We do not need a Sierra Club Guide and a string of wilderness pack jackasses in order to visit our own back yards. The wilderness idea is an unamerican, socialist, discriminating idea, should never be allowed to happen in America.

Congressmen, keep your unAmerican wilderness commune out of Nevada.

R. K. Hatch

Richard K. Hatch
President,
Mt. Moriah Stone, Inc.

Senator HECHT. I'm sorry, I have to cut you off. Thank you. Alfred Buranek—not here. Don Birak.

STATEMENT OF DONALD J. BIRAK, CHIEF MINE GEOLOGIST, FREEPORT GOLD CO.

Mr. BIRAK. Thank you, Senator and Congresswoman Vucanovich. I'd like to extend my thanks to you for allowing me to testify at this hearing. Some of the comments and questions I'm raising today, I'd like you to know that I've also raised by letter to Congressman Reid and I haven't had an answer, so I appreciate this opportunity doubly.

I'd like to support the general concept of wilderness and your bill that you proposed, and I'd like to raise some questions concerning the quality of the mineral evaluations that have been done in certain areas. I won't cite each one, but just generally questions about what has been evaluated and how minerals were evaluated on these Forest Service lands.

It is the contention of this testimony that some of the evaluations were inadequate. I think there are enough publicly available documents put out by the U.S. Geological Survey that will support that there is a fairly good size potential for mineral deposits in some of those areas, specifically Arc Dome, Table Mountain, and also portions of the South Snake Range. I refer to U.S. Geological Survey Circular No. 966 which was published very recently, and a copy [1] of that is included with my testimony.

Nevada is very unique geologically, as you know, it forms most of the Great Basin. We have some of the major gold and silver producers in this State. Mr. McBeth spoke on Carlin Gold, I could offer similar statistics about Jerritt Canyon but there really is no need because he's been in business a lot longer than we have and his money would sound a lot bigger. But let me just say that Jerritt Canyon in North Independence Mountains also was considered a possible wilderness area, and it was incompletely evaluated for its mineral potential. Case in point is the many companies that did walk past Jerritt Canyon, inspected it, found gold there in the early 1970's and now have a major gold mine in that area, so I would just like to offer that I support your bill and I think there ought to be a better job done on mineral evaluation in these proposed wilderness areas.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Birak follows:]

[1] Retained in subcommittee files.

FREEPORT

Freeport Gold Company
Mountain City Star Route
Elko, Nevada 89801
Phone (702) 738-9221
A Subsidiary of Freeport Minerals Company

February 6, 1986

Senator "Chic" Hecht
300 Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 426
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Senator Hecht:

Subject: U. S. Forest Service Wilderness Lands

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to the issue of wilderness lands for the state of Nevada. I represent mineral concerns for Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company, a major gold producer located in Elko County. I wish to testify at the Ely meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Several wilderness bills for U. S. Forest Service land in Nevada have recently been introduced into congress. The amount of acreage involved differs widely between the different bills and undoubtedly, a survey of public opinion would produce many other alternatives. Clearly, it is impossible to satisfy all concerns in an issue with such wide-sweeping impact. However, a concerted effort should be made to effect a solution that would serve the most people and the have the greatest impact on the local, state, and national levels. It is the contention of this testimony that congressional bill 1686 adequately addresses all concerns and that both the Reid and Seiberling proposals have insufficiently addressed the impact of proposed wilderness designation to several tracts of Forest Service land. Specifically, it is felt that the mineral inventory and mineral potential of selected lands in the Reid and Seiberling proposals have been insufficiently addressed.

Nevada is one of the richest states in the union in mineral resources and is currently experiencing a major resurgence in precious metals exploration. There are many reasons why Nevada mineral exploration is booming, when the domestic mining industry seems to be on its' heels. The first and foremost reason is today's relatively high gold price. While the demand for gold has always been good, the low prices realized as recently as the late 1960's would have precluded economic operation of many of the deposits discovered and put into production since that time. A second reason is refinements and advancements in precious metal

extractive-metallurgy. Many of Nevada's gold deposits are hosted in carbon-rich sedimentary rocks. Up until the mid 1970's, the gold that occurred in highly carbonaceous portions was not economically recoverable, meaning that only weakly- or non-carbonaceous ores were able to be beneficiated. This is no longer a limitation as gold deposits such as Jerritt Canyon, with large amounts of highly carbonaceous ore, are now being processed at a profit. A third reason for the increased interest in Nevada mineral exploration is the favorable geologic environment for precious metal deposits in Nevada. Nevada is unique geologically, consisting largely of sedimentary and igneous rocks favorable as hosts for precious metal deposits. Comprising most of the Basin and Range physiographic province, Nevada is marked by alternating belts of mountain ranges and valleys that formed as result of extensional faulting in the earth's crust. The combination of this faulting with ancient and recent geothermal activity, and receptive host rocks explains why Nevada has some of the nation's premier gold and silver deposits, providing millions of dollars of new money to the local and state economies. This phenomenon is more than simply fortuitous as exploration has continued in other parts of the western United States, with much less success.

Wilderness Area Mineral Potential

Several of the areas proposed in U. S. House bill #3302 (H. Reid, D. Nevada) are inconsistent with the concept of wilderness areas in favorable geologic environments. These areas are Arc Dome, Table Mountain, and the South Snake Range. The comments that follow are adequately substantiated by published mineral occurrence data and geologic observations from publically available geologic maps and reports. Specific reference is made to U. S. Geological Circular 966, which cites known occurrences of either anomalously high concentrations of precious metals, base metals, and industrial minerals, actual producing mineral properties, or old mining camps. A copy of this reference is attached for your review along with a scale copy of the wilderness areas proposed in bill #3302. This testimony does not purport to be the definitive treatise on mineral potential in the proposed Nevada wilderness areas, but to point out glaring inconsistencies in other proposed legislation that must be addressed.

Arc Dome

The proposed Arc Dome wilderness area consists of approximately 146,000 acres of U. S. Forest Service land in south-central Nevada. The core of this area is largely composed of siliceous volcanic rocks similar to those that host the Round Mountain and Paradise Peak gold and silver deposits. The Round Mountain deposit is somewhat different than some of the other larger gold and silver deposits in Nevada as

precious metals are extracted solely by heap-leaching of very low-grade ores. This technique of recovering gold and silver by heap-leaching was not viable until just very recently and as a result Round Mountain produced over 121,000 ounces of gold in 1984.

Flanking the volcanic rock terrain, on its southeast and northeast sides, are sedimentary rocks similar in age and character to those that host many of Nevada's other precious metal deposits. It is not unreasonable to assume that the potential for a sediment-hosted precious metal deposit could occur in this area. As a comparison, the Jerritt Canyon gold deposits, in northeast Nevada, cover approximately 2,000 acres of public land comprised of rocks similar to those in and around Arc Dome. Jerritt Canyon produced over 250,000 ounces of gold in 1985. Coupled with the numerous precious and base metal occurrences and/or mines in this area (U. S. G. S. Circular 966), the favorable geologic features of the Arc Dome area casts much doubt on its lack of mineral potential.

Table Mountain

The proposed Table Mountain Wilderness area consists of approximately 125,000 acres of public land. The geology of this area is very similar to Arc Dome and should, therefore, fall under the same suspicions. Both gold and silver occurrences are reported from the north end of the Table Mountain area.

South Snake Range

The South Snake Range proposed wilderness area consists of approximately 127,000 acres. The geology is dominated by early Paleozoic-aged sedimentary rocks intruded by Jurassic-aged quartz monzonite on the north end of the area. Many occurrences of precious and base metals are reported from the central and north end of the proposed wilderness area.

SUMMARY

The need for wilderness lands in the state of Nevada is not being questioned. Anyone who has spent the time to traverse the state knows that we have areas that do qualify for wilderness designation and should be so established. However, it is the contention of this testimony to raise questions concerning the reliability of mineral inventory studies in proposed Nevada wilderness lands so that a reasonable amount of acreage will be designated as wilderness. In light of the amount of available public information suggesting that several of the areas proposed for wilderness in other congressional bills do contain significant potential for mineral discoveries, it is unreasonable to support these bills without revision.

This testimony has been prepared in support of the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich legislation which is deemed a very reasonable

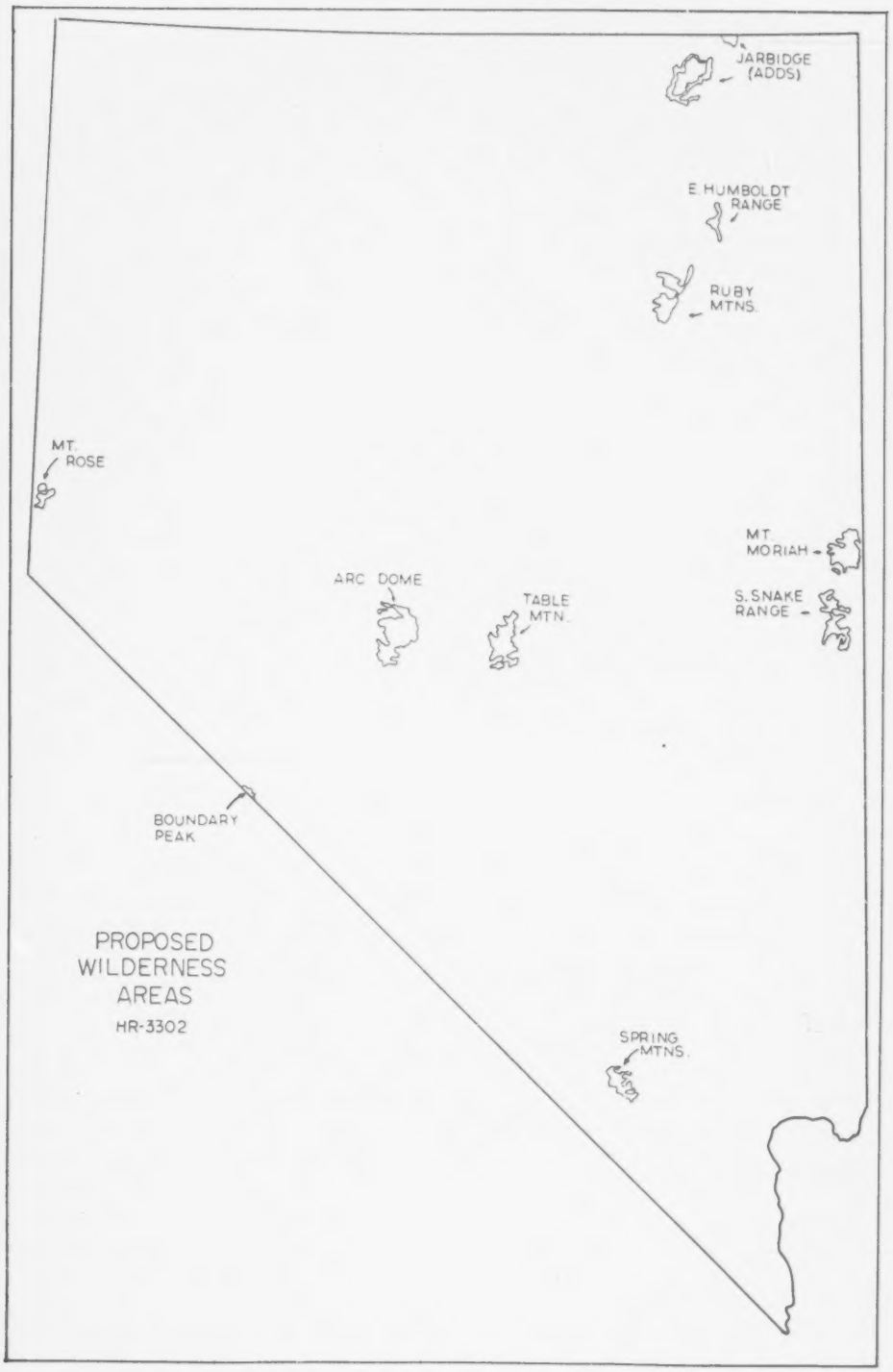
compromise proposal. I would like to thank Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich for the opportunity to present this testimony and voice my support for their wilderness legislation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Birak

Donald J. Birak
Chief Mine Geologist

DJB:sc


JARBIDGE
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ARC DOME
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S. SNAKE
RANGE
BOUNDARY
PEAK
PROPOSED
WILDERNESS
AREAS
HR-3302
SPRING
MTNS.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mr. Young, I guess you win the prize for traveling the furthest for the hearing, all the way from Houston, TX, and I think the fact that you have gone to that expense and time points out how important Nevada must be to the Petroleum Institute, so I thank you for making that trip.

And, Mr. Richard Hatch, you're from Utah?

Mr. HATCH. I'm living in California part of the time and up here in Nevada most of the time.

Senator HECHT. Where is your home? In Utah?

Mr. HATCH. We have an office there, and I'll be moving into Utah or eastern Nevada shortly.

Senator HECHT. Just go back there and work for Jake Doren, he's a good man.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No, but I'm interested in this new study that Mr. Birak has presented. Is this something that's just been done recently?

Mr. BIRAK. Actually, the information has been available for quite some time, and U.S. Geological Survey has been tabulating this data, it's under the Mineral Resource Data System, previous name for Gypsy. Other mineral evaluations have been done, but this is the first published compilation for Nevada that I know of. It's so graphic. It shows you where the deposits are, and it's very well done. No questions.

Senator HECHT. Thank you all very much.

Panel No. 7, Chief Jerry Millet, Sarah Locke, Nancy Ernaut, Robert Marcum, Richard Carver, and Shirley Robison.

OK. First, Chief Jerry Millet.

STATEMENT OF CHIEF JERRY MILLET, CHIEF, WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Chief MILLET. Thank you, Senator. I'm Jerry Millet, chief of the Western Shoshone National Council.

It is the position of the Western Shoshone Nation that we are opposed to any Federal designation of wilderness within the State of Nevada, specifically on any lands that are within the lands of the Western Shoshone Nation. The Western Shoshone National Council is comprised of 13 different councils, bands, and organizations within Western Shoshone territory.

It is our position that the Federal Government of the United States has been obstructing and depriving the Western Shoshone people of their rights within their homelands. Wilderness is simply another means for the Federal Government to subjugate our people by additional unnecessary and unproductive restrictions.

The Western Shoshone National Council is working with the agricultural, mining, hunting, and business associations in a coalition designed to oppose additional Federal restrictions.

Senator Hecht and Mrs. Vucanovich, we appreciate the hearings being held and recognize your interest in working with our desire to limit Federal intrusion into our lives and encourage you to continue working with us. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Sarah Locke.

STATEMENT OF SARAH A. LOCKE, ELY, NV

Ms. LOCKE. Senator Hecht and panel, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to express my views. My name is Sally Locke, and my family has had some connection with mining or ranching in Nevada since 1863. I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich wilderness proposal as a compromise. My true support is with multiple use. Rural communities in Nevada depend on the multiple use concept to survive. This is not to say that we do not wish to preserve the land. We wish to learn to preserve the land while also obtaining our livelihood from it. I think multiple use is achieving this without discrimination to anyone. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Locke follows:]

Sarah A. Locke
Native Nevadan
February 10, 1986

First, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to express my views. Secondly, I do support the "Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich Wilderness Bill". However my true support is with multiple use. If any changes occur in the Bill I would like to see them be decreases in the acreage, not increases.

Following is a letter I wrote to my Nevada politicians which I wish to be included in the record:

"I do not understand why, in a time that our country's finances are in so much trouble, a new National Park with all it's expenses is even being considered.

I live in Ely because I love Nevada. I love Nevada for what it is and the heritage it has given me. It is the miner and rancher that have built Nevada. Some believe Nevada is nothing more than Reno and Las Vegas. I doubt the gambling towns would exist if there had never been a miner. It is a disgrace to our state that these people should be looked at as special interest groups that stand in the way of the few supporting a NationalPark and Wilderness Areas. Miners and ranchers are not special interest groups. They <u>are</u> Nevada. They built Nevada and should be supported in thier rights to livelihood.

We are all very proud of our MacKay School of Mines and its leadership in the field. A national stategic minerals research and policy center is to be built at UNR. What is the logic in building such a center and then locking up huge deposits of strategic metals in a National Park, both within the same state?

It is my feelings that Nevada still holds on to the spirit of the pioneers. With so much of our land controlled under the multiple-use act, we have freedom to be proud of. These lands are used, improved, and loved while also being protected through the management of BLM and the Forest Service. They should not be locked up for a few to look at. Anyone wishing to look is free to do so now.

It is a shame that easterners who have never seen our area and have little idea of how we live can pit neighbor against neighbor. They cry for wilderness and a National Park which the majority of them will never use while they change our life-styles forever. It scares me to think that people I will never see or meet, may have the voice to change my life as I know it now, to take from me my freedom to use the land I love so much. I urge you to please fight for as little wilderness as possible and <u>no National Park.</u>"

My family came to Nevada in 1863. I was named after my great-grandmother who was born in a covered wagon near Hiko, Nevada in 1868. My great-great-grandfather was George Ernst. He is noted as being the first to suggest to Adolph Sutro the idea of the famous Sutro Tunnel in Virginia City. He also conducted the first survey, locating the tunnel and shafts of the Sutro Tunnel. I could go on and on about my family in Nevada but the point I wish to make is we have been here a long time and love and respect the lands of Nevada.

Few can claim to have covered as much ground in Nevada as I have. I have also visited the Big Sandy wilderness area in Wyoming. A mountain covered by trails with a directory at the bottom of the hill and another directory at major forks in

the trails, is not the fate I wish for the mountains of Nevada. The vaste parking lot and directory stating "You Are Here" reminded me of a trip to a shopping mall, not of the true wilderness Nevada now has.

Rural communities exist in Nevada primarily by their uses of the land under the multiple use concept. If too much land is withdrawn from multiple use these communities will lose their base.

One example is the following excert from an article "Eureka County Has Highest Taxable Sales Growth" in "Nevada Business Outlook" Feb. 1986:

"Eureka County Tax Assessor Jim Ithurraide said he believes the county's 10-year taxable sales increase of 438 percent was due primarily to the increase in mining activity in the county. He noted that Newmont Mining Corp. had made major gold ore discoveries near Carlin and is developing them rapidly, adding to the county's taxable sales base.

In Nye County, with its 435 percent increase in 10 years, Tax Assessor Bernie Merlino said the increase was probably due to expansion of activity at the Nevada Test Site and to increased mining activity at Gabbs."

This is but one of the many examples of how these communities depend on multiple use. If these economic bases are lost because of too many wilderness areas the majority of the rural Nevada residents may as well pack up and leave the whole state to become wilderness. I do not believe this was the intent of the Wilderness Act.

SUMMARY

I support the "Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanvich Wilderness Bill". I do not wish to see any additional land locked-up in wilderness areas. Rural communities in Nevada depend on the multiple use concept to survive. This is not to say that we do not wish to preserve the land. We wish to learn to preserve the land while also obtaining our livelihood from it. I think multiple use is acheiving this without discrimation to anyone.

Sarah A. Locke
1280 Ave L
Ely, NV 89301

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Nancy Ernaut. Is that how you pronounce it?

STATEMENT OF NANCY J. ERNAUT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, NEVADANS FOR A PRACTICAL WILDERNESS POLICY

Ms. ERNAUT. Yes. My name is Nancy Ernaut. I have lived in Nevada for 34 years and have had business interests in Ely. I presently live in Elko, and I am the administrative assistant for Nevadans for a practical wilderness policy. As an individual, I support your bill. As spokesman for the Nevadans for a practical wilderness policy, we support your bill.

Our organization is a coalition which began in August 1985. The beginning of the organization resulted as the cavalier attitude displayed by Congressman Seiberling when he made his infamous helicopter tour around the State and told us that he knew what was best for the State of Nevada and would make sure we got it.

The coalition is comprised of hunters, campers, ranchers, skiers, miners, senior citizens, veterans and families. Many of the largest trade associations have joined our coalition, including many Chamber of Commerce, the agricultural associations, the mining associations, a growing number of hunting clubs, realtor associations, businessmen's groups, and ski clubs.

Nevadans resent outside pressure in determining the future of Nevada.

The purpose of our organization is to support your bill since we have concluded that it is a reasonable compromise and adds a reasonable amount of additional wilderness to the present 64,000 acres that we have in the State. We strongly oppose the excessive wilderness bill introduced by Congressmen Reid and Seiberling.

I would like to further state that the Reid bill only guarantees emergency access for ranchers, and this only at the discretion of local managers of Forest Service and BLM officers.

The Hecht bill guarantees access for historic use.

We believe that the difference in language is significant from a legal point of view.

Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, thank you for your concern for our home, the State of Nevada, and your time today.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Robert Marcum.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT MARCUM, ELY, NV

Mr. MARCUM. Thanks for holding your hearing in Ely today. We appreciate it.

I'm Bob Marcum. I'm a retired senior citizen living in Ely, NV.

I support the Hecht wilderness bill which would set aside 137,000 acres of Nevada Forest Service lands for wilderness. Mt. Moriah is certainly a good potential wilderness area.

Nearly all White Pine County residents use the public lands for recreation the year around. There are large numbers of senior citizens in White Pines County. Wilderness areas pose serious access problems for senior citizens due to lack of vehicular use. The mountain ranges in White Pine County are criss-crossed with primitive roads or paths. With wilderness classificaton, these primitive roads or paths would be blocked off to prevent vehicular use.

Wilderness is a valuable concept for all U.S. citizens. However, few acres of eastern Nevada public lands have been pristine for many years. The criteria for determining wilderness characteristics has been badly stretched in numerous areas recommended by other current congressional bills.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Richard Carver.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD CARVER, CARVER RANCH, NYE COUNTY, NV

Mr. CARVER. Yes. Thank you, members of the panel.

I'm Richard Carver from Smoke Valley. I was born and raised in Nevada—or in Smoke Valley. I left for a short time to go to high school in California and met my wonderful wife and worked for my father-in-law down there that runs cattle just south of Yosemite, and they came into that country in 1903.

And every year, when there's a change of administration or new policy with the Forest Service, their permit has been cut, and they are shortly going to be out of business.

I will, at the end of my little talk, I'll get back to some of the things that are taking place down there.

But I'm a member of the Nevada State Conservation Commission, a BLM Advisory Council member, I've been a director of the Tonopah Soil Conservation District since 1966, so you can see that I've been involved in soil and water and in our State for all my adult life.

My mother is a very good friend of Barbara's, and I hope some day I can come to Washington and maybe help with this matter.

What I'd like to point out is that I think that our wilderness should be organized on the local level and work up through county government, through State government, through congressional delegation and on to Washington. I don't think it's proper for Washington or people in Ohio or San Francisco to be able to come to our State and jam it down our throats, and that's what's being done, and I don't think it's right for somebody in our State, from Henderson or Reno to come to White Pine County or come to Nye County and tell us what to do in our county. It should be local people, and we've got two areas, the Jefferson and Arc Dome, and our area, and it should be people in that immediate area to propose the wilderness area. The local people know what's wilderness.

And I'm not opposed to a wilderness if it meets all the parameters of wilderness, and I mean all. I'm sure Bob Warren would agree with me, there are few areas in Nevada that are roadless. And the only way you people are getting around that, you're changing the definition of "roadless." What you're going for is if it's not Interstate 80 following the Humboldt River, it's roadless. [Applause.]

I know I'm going to run out of time, but take our Arc Dome-Jefferson area wilderness proposal which came out of this roadless evaluation book put out by the Forest Service in March 1984. In here I've got papers of a permitted road by the Forest Service that was in the heart of the Arc Dome wilderness proposal at the time this book was put out, and it says the last boundary modification

produced the current Arc Dome proposed wilderness area which has management boundaries and excludes all roads and incompatible uses.

Now there was a mining claim there at the time this was put out.

Senator HECHT. Time to cut you off.

Mr. CARVER. If there's mineral values or roads, let's not include them in the wilderness area.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Carver follows:]

My name is Richard Carver, and I am a rancher from Smoky Valley, Nye County, where I was born and raised. I am a member of the Nevada State Conservation Commission, a member of the BLM Advisory Board and a director of the Tonopah Soil Conservation District. I am representing myself and supporting all others who are opposed to wilderness in Nevada.

My family and I own and operate a ranch where we raise cattle and alfalfa solely on private property. We also have mining interests in the Arc Dome Wilderness Proposal Area and in the Toiyabe Crest Wilderness Proposal Area (Wild Granites Area).

Our ranch is situated between the Toiyabe and Toquima Ranges. The Arc Dome Wilderness Proposal Area is on the west side and the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Proposal Area is on the east. We hold water rights originating in both wilderness areas.

My family and I feel that we could live with a wilderness area on Mount Jefferson if it was scaled down to only include the very top of the mountain. This would help to preserve Alta Toquima. We would be agreeable to this only if it is stipulated that the wilderness designation not effect the hunting, fishing, water rights, or mining on Mount Jefferson. Also, grazing privileges for the ranchers would be allowed to continue as they were prior to the wilderness study. It is imperative that the wilderness designation not effect the grazing privileges and that they be

allowed to pass from one generation to another or be sold to another rancher.

As for the Arc Dome Wilderness Area, we would prefer it not to be included in any wilderness proposal. If it must become part of the wilderness proposal, it should be limited to Arc Dome Peak only. This area is a pile of rocks on the crest of the Toiyabe Range. Again, simply said: the Arc Dome Peak area can be designated as a wilderness area only if it does not adversely effect the mining, ranching, or sporting industries as previously stated in the above paragraph about Mount Jefferson.

I can only speak about the designated wilderness proposal areas in my immediate area. After speaking to different people around the state, though, I think that we all feel the same about these wilderness proposals. We are willing to accept some wilderness, which must meet certain strict criteria and be kept to a minimum number of acres.

We realize that in 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act that required a few areas be left in their natural state. In 1891, Congress passed an act creating a National Forest for the protection of forest reserves. This act has worked for ninety-four years, but now needs to be changed? What can we expect after the Wilderness Act? This wilderness act is just

the beginning of a dictatorship of our public lands. With a federal government so deep in debt that we cannot run this country without raising the debt ceiling every month, why are we thinking about wilderness and its additional expense to the government and eventually to us, the taxpayers.

In one of the largest wilderness areas that we are familiar with, cattle permit numbers are being decreased every year. Besides all the regular wilderness red tape, any person wanting to enter the wilderness area must first obtain a permit. This permit limits the mumber of people allowed into the wilderness. This past year, it was proposed to exclude horses from the area. Next they will do away with hunting, then fishing, and finally exclude all but a few select members of society.

Here in Nevada there are very few areas that are roadless and that is one of the main requirements of a wilderness area. (The top of Mount Jefferson is the only area in central Nevada that is roadless, Arc Dome and Table Mountain both have roads.) To get around that fact the pro-wilderness people changed the definition of a "road" to mean that if it is not Interstate I80 following the Humboldt River it is not a road.

In 1985, while viewing the Arc Dome Wilderness

Proposal area by helicopter, members of Congress Seiberling, Reid, Hecht, and Vucanovich viewed the South Twin River Mine and road leading to the mine that was built in 1920. Yet, under the Seiberling and Reid proposals this area is included in the wilderness bills.

On July 22, 1983 Forest Supervisor R. M. Nelson wrote Robert Wilson of Round Mountain, Nevada, a letter stating"that since the original inventory and the completiton of the RARE II Planning Process, several of the undeveloped areas have been partically developed through road construction. Areas or parts of areas that are no longer undeveloped will be dropped from the inventory."

In the Roadless Area Evaluation published by the Toiyabe National Forest "March 1984", page 108; fourth line from the bottom, "a gold mine exists in the South Twin drainage." Page 109, line seventeen, "the last boundry modification produced the current Arc Dome Proposed Wilderness Area, which has manageable boundries and excludes all roads and incompatible uses". Page 109, paragraph five, "The natural integrity of the southern Toiyabe roadless area is essentially in tact with man-made impacts limited to range improvements (fences and water developments) and small, localized mining impacts. Exploration roads

have been built in Wall Canyon since 1980, and this area has been excluded from the roadless area. Some old mining scars exist, primarily in the southern portion of the unit and in canyons on the east side, but these scars are generally small and unobtrusive. Some road work was done on the north end of the unit which is excluded from the Arc Dome Proposed Wildernes by the 1979 boundry modification proposal."

Jim Voss, Zone Minerals Specialist of the Forest Service, wrote on the first page of the mineral evaluation report for the South Twin River Mine, dated October 5, 1979: "In short, the assay results show valuable minerals present in sufficient quality that the claimants are operating within their rights under the 1872 mining laws." On page six, he also gave a good description of the property as follows:

Access: Access is by foot or by horseback. There is evidence of an old road, which went to the mine. This road has mostly been destroyed by erosion and revegetation.

Mining Activity: Mining activity took place from approximately 1870 to 1930. Activity ceased in the 1920-1930 period.

Production: No production figures are known.

Developments: Developments on the claims consist of three tunnels. There was a small air compressor, winch

system, track and ore cars and blacksmith shop at the enterance to the main tunnel.

Improvements: A cabin was built on the property, which is still usable, around 1870. A millsite was constructed downstream from the mine at the juncture of the South Fork of the South Twin River with the South Twin River. The mill was built around 1920. The mill is powered by an undershot water wheel and has a jaw crusher, ball mill, small screen and shacker table.

Conclusion: Assay results indicate that further exploration and development of the property is justified.

(Incidentially, a picture of the South Twin River Mill - water wheel - hangs on the wall in the Tonopah Ranger District Office of the Forest Service.)

Why was the South Twin River Mine included in the Arc Dome Proposed Wilderness Area? At that time (March 1984), there was an Approved Operating Plan, signed by G. Glade Quilter, District Forest Ranger, dated October 2, 1979 and a Special Use Permit (road), signed by Harold M. Bolt, Acting Forest Supervisor, dated October 24, 1979 in effect. Despite this the Forest Service included this developed area in the proposed wilderness area. I feel sure that the Forest Service knew of the intentional mistake they had made and to correct this, in the fall of 1984, they

suspended the road permit to the South Twin River Mine "until the roadless issue is resolved."

After harassing Mr. Wilson for over two years, he has grown weary of fighting and not getting any straight answers from the Forest Service. He is eager to have this issue settled so that he can proceed in his operation. How many others have just given up?

It is terrible to see the lies and deceit coming not just from Tonopah, but Reno, Ogden, and Washington. I understand that the Forest Service philosophy is "to manage to the best of our ability all parts of the ecosystem in a balanced way and to respond to the needs and desires of the people within the constrants of the budget and the land's capabilities." The Forest Service in our area fully supports the envionmental groups and are doing everything possible to curtail the miners and the ranchers. They are the ones who use the public land each and every day.

If it wasn't for the ranchers and miners in our area, there wouldn't be alot of the roads and trails that we enjoy today. The trail up South Twin River follows the old mine road. The main trail to Arc Dome is up North Twin River which was washed out in 1983 during high waters and the Forest Service has yet to rebuild it.

I feel wilderness planning should be initiated by

the local people. We do not think that the people in Washington, D.C. or Ohio or San Francisco, California or Henderson, Nevada should able to tell the people of Nevada what is going to be wilderness and how they are going to run our lives. If wilderness is going to be forced upon the State of Nevada, the local people in the effected area should have a voice in planning the proposal. If these local people oppose the plan it should then be dropped or a compromise reached.

Here in Nye County we have more proposed wilderness acrage than the rest of the state combined, yet not one Senate hearing is scheduled for anywhere in the county. I believe that our Congressional delegation should have more time to hear the local people's concerns. Considering the complexity of this issue, I feel three minutes is an awfully short time to express oneself. A speaker should be allowed a sufficient amount of time to get his point across. Aren't the hearings designed to gather input from the communities about their concerns on this issue?

We don't want promises about grazing, mining, hunting and fishing, water rights, buffer zones, air space, etc. We want it stipulated by law that we be allowed the above privileges as before the wilderness study.

After seeing what the federal government did in the

proposed Arc Dome Wilderness Area, I think we should have a case by case study of each and every proposed wilderness area. This might help to find other areas that do not meet the definition of a true wilderness area.

Instead of talking wilderness, we suggest making plans of building a road down the Toiyabe Crest Trail, from Austin to Peavine Canyon, and a road up Jefferson Canyon, over the top of Mount Jefferson and dowm to Moores Creek. This would enable ALL to see the natural splendor of our scenic mountain ranges just like we can do in Yosemite Valley.

Even though we are opposed to wilderness legislation in any form, we could support the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich Wilderness Bill.

Senator HECHT. Shirley Robison.

Mr. CARVER. She's absent today.

Senator HECHT. Getting back to a question to you, Mr. Carver. Are you in favor of Barbara's amd my bill or no wilderness at all?

Mr. CARVER. I am not completely in favor with your proposal, but we could live with it. I think it ought to start at the local level and come up. I think we're jumping the gun by having you people make the proposal.

Senator HECHT. Well, of course. We proposed a bill and then we come out to the State to hear the local people. We will get the determination from all of you, how you feel about it, let you pick it apart.

Mr. CARVER. Why don't you let the people propose the wilderness bill and then come to you with it?

Senator HECHT. Unfortunately, the Government has mandated certain policies. Agencies have to develop it, and whether we are in agreement or not on that, I won't go into that today, but they are just doing their job.

Mr. CARVER. I will make a written statement.

Senator HECHT. Very good. Chief, I want to ask you a couple of questions. How many people are in your council?

Chief MILLET. The council?

Senator HECHT. Yes. How many members of the council are there?

Chief MILLET. There are 13.

Senator HECHT. How many people do you represent, then?

Chief MILLET. Approximately 6,000 to 8,000.

Senator HECHT. And how about the other Indians in the State. Are they opposed to wilderness, as you are?

Chief MILLET. We haven't had any discussions on this with, for example, the Washoes or the Paiutes.

Senator HECHT. You haven't discussed anything with them?

Chief MILLET. No.

Senator HECHT. I see in your testimony you're very adamant about it, so I just wondered how they felt about it.

Chief MILLET. We have an Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada organization which will meet in Las Vegas the end of this month, and I had planned to make this presentation to our Inter-Tribal Council.

Senator HECHT. Well, get that to us immediately bcause I'd be very, very interested in hearing it.

You're going to meet the end of this month?

Chief MILLET. Yes.

Senator HECHT. Well, we're closing the testimony on the 28th. What's the date of your meeting?

Chief MILLET. I'm not sure. It's the last week of February, anyway.

Senator HECHT. Well, if you could get that to us, I'd like to include that as part of the record. Would you get it postmarked by the 28th. Just get is to us, and we'll make sure it's part of the record because I think it's very very important that the records show that.

[The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada submitted the following:]

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA

PHONE (702) 329-3956

650 S. ROCK BOULEVARD, SUITE 16 • P.O. BOX 7440 • RENO, NEVADA 89510

BATTLE MOUNTAIN BAND COUNCIL
CARSON COLONY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DRESSLERVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DUCK VALLEY SHOSHONE-PAIUTE BUSINESS COUNCIL
DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBAL COUNCIL
ELKO BAND COUNCIL
ELY COLONY COUNCIL
FALLON BUSINESS COUNCIL
FT. MCDERMITT PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBES
GOSHUTE BAND COUNCIL
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL
LOVELOCK TRIBAL COUNCIL
MOAPA BUSINESS COUNCIL
PYRAMID LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL
RENO/SPARKS TRIBAL COUNCIL
SOUTH FORK BAND COUNCIL
SUMMIT LAKE PAIUTE COUNCIL
TE-MOAK TRIBAL COUNCIL
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL
WASHOE TRIBAL COUNCIL
WELLS BAND COUNCIL
WINNEMUCCA COLONY COUNCIL
WOODFORDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
YERINGTON PAIUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL
YOMBA TRIBAL COUNCIL

February 21, 1986

Senator Chic Hecht
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) is incorporated to advance the interests of Indian tribes and individuals. It's board of directors is composed of chairmen of the twenty-four reservations and colonies in Nevada. This corporation provides the forum for tribes to discuss areas of common concern and to generate mutual support.

ITCN advocates a legislative agreement to the claims made by the Western Shoshone National Council (WSNC) to lands located within the WSNC ancestral territory. The enclosed resolution is submitted to show the support of Nevada tribes in opposing the designation of any land located within the Shoshone ancestral territory. It is the opinion of ITCN that the claims should reach a negotiated legislative settlement prior to being considered as a wilderness area.

We hope that you will act on our behalf in resolving these long standing issues. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

Yours truly,

David Lockart

David Lockart
Executive Director

DL/kmb

RESOLUTION NO. ITCN-86-7

RESOLUTION
OF
INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

We, the Executive Board of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, as the body composed of the elected representatives of the twenty-four Indian reservations and colonies in Nevada, as the duly chartered Indian organization which speaks for the wishes and desires of the state's Indian population, do hereby resolve:

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada is comprised of the Chairmen of the federally recognized tribes in the State of Nevada and whose charter is ratified by these same tribes; and

WHEREAS, through the combined efforts of the Nevada tribes and the executive action of the Board, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. has become a highly responsible organization with broad financial and managerial capability as an Indian organization within the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada has a continuing interest in the health and well-being of the Indian population and the sovereignty of tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Western Shoshone National Council was organized in 1984 to represent the Western Shoshone Nation in negotiating a legislative agreement of Western Shoshone Land Rights and money issues against the United States; and

WHEREAS, the question of extinguishment of Western Shoshone aboriginal Indian title has not been fully decided; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985 SB 722, pertains to land encompassed by the Western Shoshone Nation; and

WHEREAS, this Act would interfere with those aboriginal rights and title;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ITCN supports and is in accord with the Western Shoshone National Council's opposition to this Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada wishes an expedient conclusion to these long standing Western Shoshone issues.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada's Executive Board, in Reno, Nevada on February 21, 1986, by a vote of 16 for, 1 against, and 8 abstentions.

Diana Buckner

Diana Buckner, Secretary
ITCN Executive Board

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Do you happen to know the percentage of the lands in Nye County which are being considered for wilderness, just of Nye County, what the percentage is?

Chief MILLET. No, I don't.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. It's a very large percentage of the county. We've heard a lot of comments when we've been debating this issue, that only 1 percent of the land in the State is being looked at, but it's my understanding that it's close to 25 percent of Nye County that's under consideration.

Chief MILLET. A very large part of the Forest Service land and a very, very large part of BLM land in the east.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I'd like to find out. We'll have to determine that. I just want to point out that it is a large percent of Nye County. I have no further questions.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Panel No. 8. George Doherty, Bill Davidson, Art Olson, Pastor Raymond Lockley, Joseph Griggs.

Let's go right along. George Doherty, do you want to start first?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE W. DOHERTY, ELY, NV

Mr. DOHERTY. Senator, Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify here. My statement is a rather general one.

I would like to speak in favor of the wilderness bill, H.R. 3302. I am speaking as a private citizen.

Outdoor recreational activities I enjoy include camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and backcountry exploration. I also enjoy the educational opportunities afforded by such activities. These include opportunities to study and learn about animal behavior, the geology of unique areas as well as archeological, cultural, and anthropological studies.

I have had the good fortune and opportunity over the past 20 years or more to spend time in many of the national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas and other areas in the Western United States. As a result, I have developed a deep appreciation for the uniqueness of these areas.

Over the past 5 years, I have had the opportunity to view or visit only a few of the areas suggested in the Nevada wilderness bills. However, what I have seen has impressed me.

I believe that Nevada has some unique areas somewhat like inland oasis in what is best called high desert country. These provide opportunities for study for present as well as future generations. Areas such as wetlands, glacier remnants and glaciated areas, extinct volcanos, earthquake faults, and unique montane areas are scattered across the State. The archeological, anthropological, paleontological, and geological study of these areas can provide much for our understanding of the Earth as a whole and its history.

Nevada is a State that is rich in certain mineral deposits and metals and has contributed much in this manner to the wealth of our great Nation. I feel certain that Nevada will be called upon to do so again in the future as we move forward into the space age and improve our technologies. As in the past, I feel certain that

reasoned utilization of our natural resources will be necessary in the future. It is because of such reasoned use in the past that our country has been able to remain economically strong, a leader in the development of new technologies beneficial to all and to maintain our national security. We have been judicious in our use of our natural resources and have used them wisely. One of our strengths has been to closely monitor and limit waste of these resources. By setting aside lands for wilderness areas, we provide a number of opportunities.

These include recreational opportunities, scenic areas, preservation of resources for possible future development when the need may arise in future generations, opportunities to study relatively undisturbed areas of the Earth for comparison with more developed areas. Such comparisons may prove very useful in the future.

I believe that with the preservation of these areas, both industry and our environment will benefit. Future generations will have the benefits of utilizing all of the resources so preserved, esthetic as well as practical.

I would like to go on record as supporting the Nevada wilderness bill, H.R. 3302. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Art Olson. Good to see you, Art. Who's watching the store?

Mr. OLSON. I've got the family over there.

Senator HECHT. OK.

STATEMENT OF ART OLSON, PHARMACIST, ELY, NV

Mr. OLSON. Senator Hecht, Representative Vucanovich: My name is Art Olson. I'm a pharmacist and own a business in Ely, NV. I've been a resident of White Pine County for the past 27 years.

A great amount of local emotion has been generated over the proposed Great Basin National Park, emotion that has been both clouded and distorted in many of the facts.

I would first like to address two areas of impact concern that I believe to be important areas therein.

First of all, in perspective. One, the scope in grazing within the proposed park. Six permittees and seven allotments exist within the proposed area, that accounts for 1.6 percent of the total county AUM's, and only 1.3 percent of the total grazing stock in White Pine County.

No. 2, mining within the proposed park. Under H.R. 3302, existing valid mining interests would be protected and could be worked.

Much has been said about the potential mineral reserves of this area. Much was said about them 20 years ago. Records of the Forest Service or the University of Nevada School of Mines fail to reflect any substantial mining activity in this area beyond that necessary to maintain claim status.

Statements have also been again resurrected concerning the "World's Greatest and Largest Deposit of Beryllium" within the proposed park. A recent inquiry was made to the Department of the Interior. Under law, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines conducted a mineral assessment of proposed wilderness areas. Although beryllium and tungsten were identified—and I quote—"As of this report, there are no major beryllium or

tungsten deposits we are aware of in the proposed Great Basin National Park." That was November 23, 1985.

The economic advantages associated with a national park of prime importance to both White Pine County and the State of Nevada. Studies conducted by the College of Business of the University of Nevada in 1959 indicate that a national park in the Mount Wheeler area would add approximately $7,600,000 to the economy of the State annually. This would steadily increase to $10 million in the first decade. That was 1959 dollars.

Add to this the fact that a national park would establish a tourist destination in eastern Nevada; a national park would create an entire new image potential in Nevada advertising; a national park would mean hundreds or thousands of advertising dollars to the State because of the national park status; and a national park is a nondepreciating, nonexhaustable industry that attracts dollars that create jobs and pays taxes for the services that we all enjoy.

The advantages of a national park would be long range. They would not occur overnight. It is as much a fallacy to believe that a national park will bring immediate and complete economic security to an area as it is a fallacy to preach that a national park would cripple the mining and grazing industry of White Pine County.

Senator HECHT. Art, please summarize the last page. Your time is up.

Mr. OLSON. The creation of a national park would be a major step in the economic diversification program for our country and our State.

Senator Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, the decisions you reach must be the most important decisions that face our community today. The entire community's needs must be weighed in your perspective. The State of Nevada is your charge.

I thank you very much for this opportunity and for your attention.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Olson follows:]

PUBLIC HEARING
ELY, NEVADA
FEBRUARY 10, 1986

RE: H.R. 3302
Title II -- GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

HONORABLE CHIC HECHT
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

My name is ART OLSON. I am a pharmacist and own a business in Ely, Nevada. I have been a resident of White Pine County for the past twenty-seven years.

My remarks today represent personal feelings. I do not represent formally any group.

It was my opportunity to serve on the PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK STUDY COMMITTEE of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. The efforts of this advisory committee spanned eleven hours over a six day period. Although the results of that committee my be critized by those who disagree with its final recommendation, the efforts of that committee were genuine, sincere attempts to recognize both the advantages and disadvantages associated with establishing a national park in White Pine County. To my knowledge this was the only such effort expended by any group to bring together at one table the various concerns and interests surrounding the proposed park. Serving as staff to this committee was a representative of the Forest Service and a representative of the National Parks. These gentlemen were able to answer questions and clarify points of confusion to the benefit of the entire committee.

This committe formally recommended favorable consideration of a national park in White Pine County. As a result of the information compiled by this committee I strongly support this finding.

A great deal of emotion has been generated over this topic. I am sure this emotion has been and will be expressed to you today during this hearing. Facts and comparisons were necessary in making my decision to support. I would likewise believe this to be of importance to the deliberations of this committee hearing today.

I would submit to you the following facts in the six issues I believe most important:

1. The proposed national park consists of 174,000 acres. This represents 14.6% of the acreage currently under the jurisdiction of the Ely Ranger District; 3% of County lands; and 25 hundreths of 1% of the State area.

2. Concerning grazing in the proposed park area there are: 6 permittees,
7 allotments,
approximately 571 mature cattle grazing,
approximately 2,437 sheep,
4,425 AUM's (2,582 cattle - 1,843 sheep).

Under the "Federal Land Use In White Pine County" section of the 1984 O.F.D.P report, the total number of AUM's listed for the county was 269,655 and the total number of grazing animals was 230,420. These figures project that the proposed park area includes 1.6% of total county AUM's and 1.3% of the total county grazing stock.

Figures obtained from the County Extention Service on 11/22/85 indicate the number of AUM's in the Ely District to be 524,134 active plus an additonal 68,964 inactive. Ely District includes more than White Pine County, but the majority is within county area. These newer figures would make the above listed percentages even smaller.

It states in H.R. 3302, ". . .the Secretary may permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands of July 1, 1985". Although this is open ended in term, the descretion authority of the Secretary of Interior is much concern in the minds of grazing interests. Historically, grazing in national parks terminates. This concern would be greatly relieved if a definate term of use were defined in the bill.

3. Concerning mining within the proposed park area, there are: 479 valid, unpatented claims,
1,122 filed claims, and
approximately 10 patented claims.

Under H.R. 3302, existing valid mining interests would be protected and could be worked.

It is interesting to note that the proposed bill contains no condemnation statement.

Much has been said about the potential mineral reserves of this area. Much was said about them twenty years ago. At what time will this potential become productive?

Statement have been made concerning the "world's largest deposit of beryllium" located in the proposed national park. The value of any such reserve lies in the financial benefit to claim it. Who is to say when or if this will ever come about?

63-105 O - 86 - 5

In researching the beryllium potential within the proposed national park area, I contacted by telephone Assistant Secretary of Interior Robert Broadbent for information. Under law, the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines conduct a mineral assessment of proposed wilderness areas. Although beryllium and tungsten were identified,

> "As of this report, there are NO MAJOR beryllium or tungsten deposits we are aware of in the proposed Great Basin National Park."
>
> --ROBERT BROADBENT
> 11/23/85

4. Concerning economic benefit of a National Park:

> A study conducted by the College of Business of the University of Nevada in 1959 indicates a National Park in the Mt. Wheeler area would add approximately $7,600,000 to the economy of the state annually. This return would steadly increase to $10,000,000 in the first decade. These figures represent 1959 dollars. This report projected losses of $50,000 anually in mining, grazing, lumbering, and hunting. These projected losses were updated to total $200,000 by the Study Committee finding.

5. Concerning hunting in the proposed park area:

> This will be the most abruptly impacked issue of study. No hunting is permitted in National Parks. The following factors are imported in considering this issue:
>
> --estimated mule deer herd totals 3,000
> --number harvested in area during 1984 - 132 (5% of County harvest)
> --total County deer harvest during 1984 - 2,625
> --52% hunter success in County
> --35% hunter success in the Wheeler Area
> --most years all tags are used - this year 5% of available tags in County were not used

6. Concerning the White Pine Power Project:

> Since inception of WPPP, I have expended cosiderable time and support. Many, many citizen of White Pine County have likewise. No project ever undertaken by this county enjoyed the effort and endorsement the WPPP can claim. For this reason I feel that jeopardy of the WPPP could be a fatal flaw in community support of a National Park. There has been no indication, however, of any imposed threat by the establishment of a park, as

things now exist. There is GREAT concern, however, that attitudes and administrative policy could change. For this reason I would strongly recommend that conditions be written into the proposed law that would safeguard developement of the White Pine Power Project. It is much more difficult to change legislation than it is to enact administrative policy change. Herein lies the best security to WPPP.

Although much more information has been compilled, the six points discussed above reflect key areas of concern and interest in my evaluation. The decision you reach must be for the best interest of the most. The entire county benefit must be weighed from your perspective. The State of Nevada is your charge.

I'm confident in the public officials of White Pine County who have endorsed the park proposal. I'm confident in their ability to recognize and address -- through planning and zoning procedures -- the impacts that progress brings.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A NATIONAL PARK IN WHITE PINE COUNTY . . . . .AND THAT TIME IS NOW!!!

Thank you for this opportunity and for your attention.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Pastor Lockley.

STATEMENT OF REV. RAYMOND G. LOCKLEY, PASTOR, ELY AND McGILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Pastor LOCKLEY. Thank you, Senator, for the opportunity to irritate people on all sides of the issue this morning. I'm Raymond Lockley, pastor of the Ely United Methodist Church.

It is because I'm a pastor in this community and I'm concerned with the spirit and the welfare of the residents that I wish to make a statement at this time.

You have a written copy of a more complete version of what I'm going to say. This issue is one that seems to have polarized the community in the last few years, one of many issues. In this case, the two sides that folks seem to be choosing up on are the mining and ranching interests versus the motel and tourist related businesses. Those who have an investment in one or the other will no doubt be presenting testimony today to look out for their best interests as they did a few months ago at the House hearings, and others will be proclaiming the virtues of supporting our traditional economic bases or looking toward the future and economic diversification. I respectfully suggest that none of this has anything to do with whether or not either a national park or wilderness area ought to be designated in this part of Nevada.

The lands in question belong to the Federal Government, which is another way of saying they belong to the American people. While local interests have had extensive use, and should have, these lands do not in fact belong exclusively to the State of Nevada or the people of this county. Which local economic interests should be protected or which should be held in higher esteem has little to do with what is best for the land, and that is the question at hand: how the lands under discussion can be best used and/or preserved on behalf of all the American people. I think this needs to be heard loud and clear because the people here are divided enough on the economic issues. We have elected you with the confidence that you will be able to see the needs of our country from your perspective in Washington, DC, while keeping in mind the perspectives and needs of your home State. We as citizens rely on you to gather appropriate information from sources of expertise not available to us and using the judgment which we expressed faith in at election time and vote accordingly.

However, as a pastor here in town, I see that there are other issues that need to be dealt with, by which you as an elected leader can be of help, by hearing us today.

First of all, the people are too divided on too many issues effectively to cooperate at a time when interdependence is a necessity. We need strong leadership to see that this is an opportunity to make a further contribution to our country and to see how we can make the best out of whatever we finally end up with.

This brings up another thing that we need in Nevada, and that is more that we can point out to the rest of the world with pride. Regardless of the economy, we must have a sense of civic pride or we have nothing. Help us to find a cause for civic pride and interpret the decision, whatever that is, of Congress in that light.

Finally, no pastor can ignore the realities of financial need and hardship, and there is cause to believe that one segment or another of our community will be adversely affected by the outcome of this issue, including the decision for no change.

I urge you to continue your active support to bolster the economy of White Pine County and to listen to the needs and concerns expressed locally with an eye toward possible changes in the details and provisions of the bill, such as boundaries and so on, that could alleviate any financial hardship without significantly altering the basic intent of the proposal. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Pastor Lockley follows:]

Statement to Senate Hearing on Proposed National Park

February 10, 1986 Ely, Nevada

Rev. Raymond G. Lockley
Pastor, Ely and McGill United Methodist Churches
P. O. Box 848
Ely, Nevada 89301

It is necessary that I begin my statement with the disclaimer that I present my own opinions herein and not necessarily those of either of my congregations (which have not taken a position on this issue) or the United Methodist Church. [No one may speak for our denomination except our quadrennial General Conference, and I have appended appropriate statements on land use from our General Conference for your information.] It is because I am a pastor of Christians here in this community that I wish to make a statement at this time.

This issue is one of many that have seemingly polarized White Pine County in the last few years. In this case, the two sides that folks seem to be "choosing up" on are the mining and ranching interests versus the motel and tourist-related businesses. Those who have an investment in one or the other will no doubt be presenting testimony today to look out for their best interests (as they did at the House hearings a few weeks ago), and others will proclaim the virtues of supporting our traditional economic bases or looking towards the future and economic diversification. I respectfully suggest that none of this has anything to do with whether or not either a national park or wilderness area ought to be designated in this part of Nevada.

The lands in question belong (almost completely, if not completely) to the federal government, which is another way of saying that they belong to the American people. While local interests have had extensive use through grazing permits, leases, hunting, fishing, trapping, and so on, these lands do not in fact belong exclusively to the State of Nevada or the people of this county. Which local economic interests should be protected or held in higher esteem has little to do with what is best for the land.

The question at hand is how the lands under discussion can be best used and/or preserved on behalf of all the American people. Can Americans as a whole best benefit by one designation or another? Will Americans benefit by preserving the area's scenic splendour, or are there resources there that are more important to our country? Or is there perhaps a middle ground of recreational and economic usage that needs to be found? And, quite frankly, these questions are why our tax-dollars go to pay the salaries of our U.S. senators: we have elected you with the confidence that you will be able to see the needs of our country from

your perspective in Washington, D.C., while keeping in mind the perspectives and needs of your home state. We as citizens rely on you to gather appropriate information from sources of expertise not available to us and using the judgement which we expressed faith in at election time, vote accordingly. This is the responsibility you have been given as one of the trustees of the property belonging to the American people, and the status of local checkbooks really has little to do with what ought to be done with the land, and I think this viewpoint of trust and citizenship is not being heard above the din.

However, as a pastor here in town, I see that there are other issues that need to be dealt with, and in which you as one of our elected leaders can be of help.

First of all, the people of this county are far too divided on too many issues to cooperate effectively at a time when our economy makes interdependence a necessity. We need some strong outside leadership to show local people that this is an opportunity to make a further contribution to our country, and to see how they can make the best out of whatever we finally end up with.

This relates to another thing that we need here, and that is more that we can point to the rest of the world with pride and gladly show to people on a map of Nevada. Regardless of the economy, and whether or not we cooperate voluntarily or involuntarily, we must have a sense of civic pride or we have nothing here. Help us to find a cause for civic pride and interpret the final decision of Congress in this light.

Finally, no pastor can ignore the realities of financial need and hardship, no matter what their politcal philosophy may be, and there is cause to believe that one segment or another of our community will be adversely effected by the outcome of this issue (including the decision for no change). I urge you to continue your active support for the economic bolstering and diversification of White Pine County, and to listen to the needs and concerns expressed locally with an eye towards possible changes in the details and provisions of the bill (e.g. boundaries) that is finally appproved that could alleviate hardships here without changing the basic intent of the proposal. Further, any assurances that you can give about the current provisions of the pending legislation that would allay some of the fears and suspicions of local residents would be a tremendous help in relaxing the atmosphere of tension that currently exists in some parts of our county.

Thank you for allowing me to make this statement and for your continuing efforts to hear the concerns of your constituents in rural Nevada.

Raymond G. Lockley

Rev. Raymond G. Lockley

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Joseph Griggs.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH F. GRIGGS, JR., BAKER, NV

Mr. GRIGGS. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, I very much appreciate your holding this hearing here today.

My name is Joe Griggs. I live in Baker. I'm here because I am very familiar with the mountains in this county. I don't have a ranch. I don't have a motel. I'm speaking as a private citizen.

I'm not in favor of the Great Basin National Park because, even though we don't have any hard figures yet about what this proposal means in economic terms, I doubt that the tourist gains, the economic realization from gain in the tourists' attendance at the park will not offset the losses of multiple use, sustained yield uses for some time. And I believe that when it does, if it does, the natural resource—that is, the mountain itself—will suffer from the people impact. I do not have faith in the National Park Service as a preservation organization. I don't think they are able to limit impact when they need to, and I don't want to see the mountain get beat out. I don't want to see bristlecone pine suffer from too many people.

I think the contention that the area requires protection is very questionable. In addition, I don't believe that the National Park Service has sufficient respect for private property and boundaries.

I would like to speak specifically about a couple of the wilderness proposals around here.

If I had my druthers, I'd like to see the Mount Moriah Wilderness traded off and left out of the wilderness in favor of a small wilderness area, the one which the Forest Service proposes on the northern part of Wheeler Peak.

I think—I would actually prefer to see no wilderness at all, but I think an improvement would be realized if you took Mount Moriah out and put the Northern Snake Range in. And that would be according to recommended Forst Service boundaries which I think have been studied in great detail and are pretty good.

As far as the proposed wilderness area on the south part of the South Snake Range, south of Big Wash, in my opinion it has no merit at all. There are no lakes, no brindle streams, no bristlecone pine of any consequence; and, at the same time, there's some very interesting mineralization, rare minerals to some extent, down there. I think it ought to be left open to the mining community.

I thoroughly believe it was established by the Sierra Club as a tradeoff item.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. You have to finish.

Mr. GRIGGS. OK. I would also like to say that I don't believe that the Shell Creek Wilderness proposal is of wilderness quality, and I would like to see that subtracted, too.

[Paper submitted by Mr. Griggs follows:]

WAITE A MINUTE!

A Critical Review of the Great Basin National Park Proposal

by

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CONTENTS

page

Evolution of the 1985 Proposal..... 1

Robert Starr Waite..... 3

Ph.D. Thesis..... 4

Twelve "Park Quality" Features..... 5

Lehman Caves and the baker creek Cave System..... 5

Wheeler Peak..... 10

Wheeler Peak Glacier or Glacieret..... 15

Wheeler Peak Rock Glacier..... 18

Lexington Arch..... 21

Bristlecone pines..... 22

The World's Largest Mountain Mahogany..... 24

Prehistoric Fremont Indian Villages..... 25

Osceola..... 27

Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station..... 28

Cirque Lakes..... 29

Bald Mountain Ski Resort..... 30

Summary & Conclusions..... 31

Bibliography..... 34

I. EVOLUTION OF THE 1985 PROPOSAL

In 1924 and in 1959 proposals to establish a national park in the South Snake Range of eastern Nevada (White Pine County) were made in the form of bills introduced in the Congress of the United States. Each time, these proposals were initiated by a small group of occasional visitors to the area and were supported and promoted by some environmentalist groups and by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. This organization, composed primarily of businesspeople in the county seat at Ely, Nevada, was interested in increasing tourist traffic to Ely.

Opposition to these proposals developed quickly among several groups:

1) residents of the immediate vicinity of the proposed park, people who live on the slopes of the South Snake Range mountains and in the adjacent valleys;

2) the professional societies of farmers, ranchers, miners and trappers;

3) sportsmen's organizations at local and state levels; and,

4) environmentalists who felt that the proposed area was not "of park caliber".

In 1924, discussion of the issue was limited to a few civic leaders at county, state and national levels. Between 1955 and 1959, however, the debate reached public meetings, service clubs, environmentalist organizations, households and bars throughout the state. Ultimately, these bills to create a "Great Basin National Park" were defeated because they failed to receive the support of Nevada's full delegation of national legislators.

In 1978, another proposal was made and widely discussed. The boundaries of the park in this proposal were greatly enlarged to include large portions of valleys surrounding the South Snake Range. Thus, several ranches and other significant private holdings (land, mineral claims and grazing allotments) were sought by the park promoters. Opposition to this proposal was

very strong; the National Park Service expressed only lukewarm interest because of the marginal values of the site and the pricetag. This proposal was defeated before it was introduced in Congress.

In recent months another Great Basin National Park proposal has been submitted to Congress in the form of an amendment to a bill introduced in the House of Representatives, H.R. 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1985. The original intention of sponsors of this bill was to propose establishment of 14 new wilderness areas in the state totalling about 939,000 acres. The park amendment would transfer an additional 174,000 acres of national forest land, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest, to the National Park Service.

Prior to the addition of the park amendment, this wilderness bill had the support of only one of Nevada's national legislators, Representative Harry Reid, Democrat of Las Vegas. The other three legislators, Representative Barbara Vucanovich, Senator Chic Hecht, and Senator Paul Laxalt, all Republicans, have opposed it, saying that it inhibits multiple-use management over too large an area. As long as the park proposal remains a part of H.R. 3302, it is unlikely that the Republican contingent will support it. To my knowledge, however, none of the legislators have yet stated whether they would support or oppose a park bill on its own merits.

The introduction of this park amendment was a surprise to the Republican congressional delegation and to all but a handful of the state's citizens. Wilderness legislation watchers here were expecting Representative Reid to propose a wilderness area of about 50,000 acres for the South Snake Range. The site had been found inappropriate for park status not only in 1924, 1959 & 1978, but in discussions during the last two years among members of all the significant regional and national environmentalist groups (Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, National Parks and Conservation Association, Defenders

of Wildlife, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and others). Where, then, did the park amendment come from?

Representative Bruce Vento, Democrat of Minnesota, is a member of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee. The Public Lands Subcommittee, chaired by Representative John Seiberling, Democrat of Ohio, is the source of H.R. 3302. But Representative Vento is also chairman of his own subcommittee within the House Interior Committee, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. Because of his subcommittee assignments, Vento is responsible for making sure that natural areas of park quality are not overlooked, that they are added to the National Park System whenever possible. He inherited and maintains a list of places which might qualify. The South Snake Range, also known as Wheeler Peak, has been on this list for many years.

Representative Vento asked Representative Reid for his help in introducing the park amendment to the Nevada Wilderness Bill. Reid, wishing to touch base with local constituents, telephoned the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, which assured him that local support for a national park was strong. Reid, therefore, attached, with the consent of the Public Lands Subcommittee, the park amendment to the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

II. ROBERT STARR WAITE

The question remains: Why was the South Snake Range, after previous events years in the past, still on the list of the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee? The answer lies primarily with the promotional efforts of Robert Starr Waite, Ph.D., a part-time Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Utah.

For the last 16 years or so, Dr. Waite has campaigned for a Great Basin National Park, writing magazine articles and letters and giving lectures illustrated with slides. During most of this period, no one else has been active in pressing for a park in the South Snake Range. Virtually, all of the park promotion material disseminated

since about 1970 has come directly from Waite or is based on his information. This information is inaccurate in many details and cumulatively very misleading. The damage done over the last 16 years has been serious; people are now talking about a place that does not exist, except on paper.

Dr. Waite's promotional literature is the subject of this review. This author has read most of the written material and has attended Waite's slide presentation six times.

III. PH.D. THESIS

Robert Waite's interest in the creation of a Great Basin National Park was well developed when I met him for the first time in 1966. He was then a graduate student in the Department of Geography at UCLA; he was writing a Ph.D. thesis on the subject of the suitability of the South Snake Range, including Wheeler Peak, Lehman Caves and adjacent valleys, for national park classification.

In 1974, Waite's Ph.D. thesis was published at UCLA. It is 900 pages long and, except for files kept by the U.S. Forest Service, it is the only comprehensive description in existence of the South Snake Range from a geographer's point of view. Its pervasive bias however, is the assertion that the South Snake Range should be the nucleus of a national park. This conviction influences every chapter in the paper and prevents it from qualifying as an objective, or scientific, study.

The first 650 pages, approximately, consist of descriptions of natural features and geologic, aboriginal and pioneer history which the author says "argue strongly" for park classification. The remaining 250 pages outline Waite's concept of the type of park facilities (visitors' centers, ski lodges, roads, campgrounds, etc.) which he thinks would be desirable. He predicts an annual attendance at the park of 500,000 visitors by the end of the century, which he says will

be worth $20 million in tourist money to residents of Nevada.[1] Ely, he contends, will be the "hub" of private sector tourist-oriented commerce.[2]

IV. TWELVE "PARK QUALITY" FEATURES

In his public lectures, magazine articles and other promotional literature, Dr. Waite has identified 12 standout features of the South Snake Range. These are:

1) Lehman Caves and the Baker Creek Cave System;
2) Wheeler Peak;
3) Wheeler Peak Glacier or Glacieret;
4) Wheeler Peak Rock Glacier;
5) Lexington Arch;
6) Bristlecone Pines;
7) The World's Largest Mountain Mahogany;
8) Prehistoric Fremont Indian Villages;
9) Osceola;
10) Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station;
11) Cirque Lakes;
12) Bald Mountain Ski Resort.

These features are held up as being the principle reasons for Dr. Waite's park recommendation. A critique of his descriptions and these features follows.

1) Lehman Caves and the Baker Creek Cave System

Together, these caves are described by Dr. Waite as: "...the most spacious and colorful caverns west of the Continental Divide".[3]

Lehman Caves is indeed one of the two or three most spectacular and interesting limestone caverns in the United States. Although it is relatively small, its speleothems

[1]Waite, Robert S. Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, University of Utah, 25 November 1985

[2]Public statement, Ely, Nevada, 25 November 1985

[3]Waite, op.cit., p.3

(calcite formations) are ornate, colorful, close enough to the trail that visitors can see them clearly and are of immense variety and beauty. Lehman Caves deserves to be a national monument, as it has been since 1922.

Lehman Caves is now a national monument rather than a national park primarily because of its size and the scope of its opportunities for interpretation. It fits perfectly the traditional and present National Park Service concepts of what a national monument should be. The question which needs to be addressed is: Might it not just as well be part of a larger park if the remainder of the South Snake Range were to be so classified? The following considerations are relevant.

Dr. Waite writes: "(The caves) were preserved as a national monument in 1921".[4] This statement tells only part of the story; another part could be expressed by writing: "The caves began development as a national monument in 1922". In a public facility a certain amount of development is necessary to achieve a certain degree of preservation.

The question of how much damage should be tolerated for the sake of providing the public with a rewarding experience is one which the National Park Service continually addresses in the process of administering its parks and monuments. Its goal, of course, is to permit no damage at all, but this is impossible and practical compromises prevail. Construction of facilities and adjustments in policy occur regularly in ongoing efforts to keep deterioration of the resource to a minimum.

Examples of construction undertaken at Lehman Caves over the years include: a visitors' center; a trail system with enough headroom to eliminate the need for crawling, featuring as much as possible, one-way loops to facilitate the flow of traffic; man-made entrance and exit tunnels; an attractive, effective and reliable system of lights; piped water; staircases; railings; pavement; platforms; first aid stations and telephone lines.

[4]Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time To Create Nevada's First National Park?" Mountainwest Magazine, June 1978, p. 18

Examples of policy adjustments include: adoption of a "Do Not Touch" regulation; prohibition of smoking, eating and drinking inside the cave; prohibition of tripods, which are unwieldy and hazardous to speleothems; adoption of a "turn-off-the-lights-behind-you" policy to minimize the growth of moss on cave surfaces and to keep members of the tour together; limitation of tour size to 40 people (early 1970's) and to 30 people (late 1970's) so that the tour guide may keep his group under surveillance.

Construction of facilities and the adoption of regulations contribute to the preservation of the resource but they also transform it. Too much development can result in too much transformation. Every space has a carrying capacity; how to determine carrying capacity is a matter of judgment and, in many cases, of trial and error.

The largest number of people to tour Lehman Caves in a single year was 47,000 in 1972. In 1985 attendance was about 30,000. With a limit of 30 people per tour, the cave has an absolute carrying capacity of 750 people per day. The monument is open year round, so if every tour were full every day of the year, the annual absolute carrying capacity would be 273,750 people. Keeping in mind however, that about 90% of the annual visitors arrive between April and October, a seven-month period, this figure must be reduced to a realistic carrying capacity each year of approximately 175,000.

Some additional changes might be made at Lehman Caves to increase its carrying capacity. More tunnels could be excavated, but this would be drastic, expensive and probably not feasible. The number of hours each day when tours were conducted could be extended. The fact is, however, that Lehman Caves has probably reached the practical limit of its potential for development. If Dr. Waite expects Great Basin National Park to be visited by 500,000 people each year, he should be aware that about

300,000 of them will not get a chance to see Lehman Caves, which he calls the "anchor" of the park.[5]

The Baker Creek Cave System and other wild caves: Dr. Waite's thesis describes additional caves, located on the national monument and nearby in the national forest, some of which, he writes, (represent) the most extensive cave system yet discovered in the Great Basin"[6] One of them, Model Cave, "would provide an excellent laboratory for the study of cave development".[7] Of four shelter caves, he writes: "(all are) significant for their display of pictographs and assortment of speleothems ..."[8] He continues: "The caves in the Baker Creek System are all interesting and each one varies in terms of its size and variety of features. At the present time, these caverns still remain in an undeveloped state."[9] Of Snake Creek Cave, Waite writes: "This cave is more extensive and more beautifully decorated than was previously believed, and contains a wide variety of speleothems, including mammalaries, dog tooth spar, pure calcite stalactites and twelve-inch aragonite clusters. About 1200 feet of passageways have been surveyed, with a considerable amount left to be mapped. In this cave, as in the others, there is undoubtedly much more area to be discovered, and the removal of rock fill would give access to new passageways."[10]

Statements like these suggest that these undeveloped (wild) caves represent an untapped resource, which, if developed, would be of interest to tourists.

This is definitely not the case. I am intimately familiar with all of these caves, partly because I was employed by the Forest Service to explore them and catalogue their features and hazards. They do not begin to compare with Lehman Caves in configuration or quality.

[5]Ibid., p 17

[6]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada, University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.d., 1974, p85

[7]Ibid., p. 87; [8]Ibid., p. 87; [9]Ibid., p. 87; [10]Ibid., pp. 87-88.

With the exception of the shelter caves, all of them require great skill and extensive experience to negotiate. They are all dangerous and require the explorer to crawl long distances through rough cobble rock, mud and streams. Some of them are filled with water in spring and summer or following periods of heavy precipitation in the mountains. Loose rock in vertical chimneys is a serious hazard in many of them. Most of them require the use of ropes and other sophisticated rock-climbing equipment as well as lights, hard hats, coveralls and food. In addition, they are mazes. Even experienced cavers must exercise great caution to avoid getting lost inside them.

In 1973 the Forest Service halted construction of its Graycliffs Campground after all of its roads and spurs were built because Baker Creek Cave System, situated nearby, was found to be an unacceptable hazard to curious campers.

Model Cave, the "excellent laboratory", is a crawlway several thousand feet long with a floor of mud, and prone to flooding. In its entire length there are only two "rooms" large enough to allow a person to stand upright. Its inner recesses cannot normally be reached in a day's time. Breathing is difficult; the air is often stale. And Model Cave contains nothing which cannot be studied to better advantage and with less effort in almost any other limestone cave in the world.

About half of the pictographs of the shelter caves are genuine; the other half were made by the Hollywood people who made a motion picture in Snake Valley in 1922. The "real" ones were made by Fremont Indians about 700 or 800 years ago, but these are so weathered and faded as to be barely visible. Meanwhile, there are thousands of Fremont pictographs not far away in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona which are perfectly easy to see and of much greater variety. The speleo-

thems in these shelter caves, contrary to Dr. Waite's statement, are few in number, unspectacular and were virtually destroyed by collectors in 1922 and 1934. They do not merit mentioning.

Everything Dr. Waite writes about Snake Creek Cave is somehow untrue. Snake Creek Cave has been thoroughly explored and thoroughly mapped. Except for one room, it consists of hundreds of feet of tight crawlways. Rock fill which could be removed to find new passageways has long since been removed. The entire cave was extensively vandalized before 1900 and almost all of the remaining formations (they were unusually fine) were stripped out prior to 1950. Part of this damage was done by past proprietors of the souvenier shop at Lehman Caves, where the broken formations were sold as "Cave Onyx, not from Lehman Caves". These people stripped formations from other wild caves in the vicinity as well.

In summary, Dr. Waite is entirely justified in his admiration of Lehman Caves. But would Lehman Caves be better off as part of a national park? Would the public be better served? I do not think so. The Baker Creek Cave System and the other wild caves, on the other hand, have no potential whatever for development.

2) Wheeler Peak

This mountain, the highest in the South Snake Range at 13,063 feet, is a very beautiful place. Dr. Waite calls it "the keystone" of the park.[11] It has scenic vistas, dramatic natural landforms and a variety of visual textures in its cover of vegetation. It is quiet. Its air and water are clean. Visible evidence of the activities of human beings is minimal. Wild animals live there.

In promoting Wheeler Peak for national park classification, Dr. Waite has made some misleading statements and created some scenarios which need to be examined because they exaggerate the geological and biological importance of the mountain.

[11] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park -- The Story Behind the Scenery, op.cit., p. 8.

For example: Referring to Wheeler Peak, the thesis reads: "Here at least 14,000 feet of Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian and Pennsylvanian strata are exposed, with only minor stratigraphic breaks occuring in the depositional sequence."[12] On a later page: "It is also interesting to note that the rock sequence in this range is comparable to the Paleozoic sequence in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, with the lower and upper formations attaining their maximum development in each of the two areas, respectively."[13] These statements are technically correct. But condensations of these statements in the magazine articles imply an additional meaning. "Here 14000' of strata are exposed comparable in age to the rocks in the Grand Canyon. The culminating point in this massive mountain uplift is Wheeler Peak, the most conspicuous landmark in eastern Nevada."[14] On an adjacent page is a photograph of the 2000-foot rock face of the Wheeler Peak Cirque. And in Dr. Waite's slide lecture: "... 14,000 feet of exposed strata, rocks found in the same sequence and of the same age as those in the Grand Canyon". The slide on the screen is a fine photograph of the Grand Canyon.

Dr. Waite does not have a photograph of the 14,000 feet of exposed strata on Wheeler Peak, which is, after all, only 13,063 feet high and rises above the valley floors only about 8,000 feet. The tallest cliff face is about 2,000 feet from bottom to top. Where is this 14,000 feet of exposed strata? No where in the South Snake Range is there a view of exposed rock to compare with the hundreds of places in the Grand Canyon where one can see 6,000 feet of it.

-11-

[12]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit.,p.49

[13]Ibid., p.54

[14]Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time...", op.cit., p.18.

The answer to this mystery is spelled out in the thesis. It turns out that the South Snake Range is made of the same rock, lying in layers in the same sequence as it is in the Grand Canyon; not surprising, since the two places are only about 200 miles apart. But the layers of stratified rock were steeply tilted in the area where the block-fault South Snake Range rose above the surrounding valleys, so that the strata came up on an angle and broke into sections, exposing the edges. The oldest rock, found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, is found at the northern end of the range. As one travels southward through the mountains, preferably in the company of a geologist, one encounters younger rocks, until one reaches the south end where the sequence is completed. Most of the way the view is obstructed by the effects of weathering and the cover of trees. In other words, the 14,000 feet of exposed strata is there, but it is not exactly visible. A person cannot see it all at once or even in very large increments, even from an airplane, but only a little at a time by traveling the length of the range on foot or horseback and taking notes, pictures or samples to keep track of the story. The story would be easier to get by visiting the Grand Canyon.

It is not constructive to invite comparisons between Wheeler Peak and the Grand Canyon simply because their bedrock is similar in age and sequence. Everything else about the two places is quite characteristic of each and dissimilar to the other. Certainly there are no vistas on Wheeler Peak that compare with those in the Grand Canyon for visual impact and spectacle. And the Grand Canyon is not a national park because of the age or sequence of its rocks, but because of their spectacular exposure, their colors, shapes and shadows, the terraces, cliffs and dizzying chasms.

Concerning the Life Zones on Wheeler Peak, the following paragraph appears in one of Waite's promotional pamphlets: "BIOLOGY - SKY ISLAND FORESTS. Represented by seven North American climates, the 8,000 foot ascent of Wheeler Peak is equivalent to a 3,000 mile

traverse from central Nevada to the Arctic icecap. Within this vertical distance a wide variety of life forms are present. Bordered by shadscale and sagebrush basins, the ascending trees and life zones are the pinyon-juniper (Upper Sonoran), ponderosa pine-mountain mahogany (Transition), Douglas fir-aspen (Canadian), Englemann spruce-bristlecone pine (Hudsonian) and tundra-arctic algae (Arctic Alpine) Life Zone. This vertical rise contains a remarkable assemblage of ecological communities with changing animals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish, with each climatic zone."[15]

In Waite's thesis, the following: "LATITUDINAL ANALOGUE. The magnitude of the climatic sequence on the Snake Range can best be realized when it is compared to that of the Northern Hemisphere. Essentially the seven local climates represent a sequence comparable to traveling from the center of the Great Basin (39° N. latitude) to the margin of the Arctic icecap (83° N. latitude), comprising a latitudinal span of 44° or approximately 3,000 miles*." (Dr. Waite has placed a footnote here which reads as follows: Ed.) "Each 1,000 foot increase in altitude on a mountain range is approximately equivalent to a 300 mile increase in latitude. Thus, the 8,000 foot ascent from Southern Snake Valley (5,100 feet) to the summit of Wheeler Peak (13,063 feet) is comparable to a poleward journey from the town of Baker (39° N. latitude) to Prince of Wales Island (74° N. latitude) in the Canadian Archipelago, a land distance of approximately 2,400 statute miles. The inclusion of the Wheeler Glacier-et..." (this feature is discussed in the next section, Ed.) ..."in this sequence would be equivalent to raising the height of the range above the 15,000 foot level and extending the analogue another 600 miles poleward to the margin of the Arctic icecap (83° N. latitude). Since each degree of latitude is equivalent to approximately 69 statute miles, this 44° span represents a land distance of about 3,063 miles between the two locations." (End

[15]Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, op.cit., p.3.

of footnote; back to the text. Ed.) "Thus in making a vertical ascent of the range, it is possible to travel upslope from the arid basins, through a series of forested montane zones, and reach Arctic-Alpine tundra and ice, comparable to a traverse of the polar ice-cap. Accordingly, this mountain zonation is roughly analogous to displaying the physical geography of the northern two-thirds of the North American Continent upon a single mountain range, where such values are confined to a relatively small area. Because of this compactness one can travel from a temperate desert to a zone of permanent ice in only a few hours, being equivalent to a poleward journey of several thousand miles."[16]

It is a fact that about 4½ of the 6 Merriam Life Zones can be delineated on Wheeler Peak. But the life zones on Wheeler Peak do not contain all the same plants and animals that the same life zones in other places contain. For example: The Hudsonian Life Zone on Wheeler Peak contains two varieties of spruce (Picea engelmannii and Picea pungens) and two varieties of pines (Pinus flexilis and Pinus Longaeva). The Hudsonian Life Zone anywhere in the Pacific Northwest contains other varieties of spruce and several different varieties of white and yellow pines as well as several firs and cedars, one hemlock and dozens of deciduous shrubs and trees which are not found on Wheeler Peak. To suggest that the immense variety of life forms one would encounter on the 3,000 mile journey is present on Wheeler Peak is to distort the truth considerably. Wheeler Peak has a smaller variety of both plants and animals than are found in the same life zones in the Ruby Mountains, for example, about 150 miles northwest of Wheeler Peak. The variety of Wheeler Peak's flora and fauna is a mere fraction of that found nearly everywhere else, like the Sierra Nevada, the Rockies, the Cascades and the Olympics.

-14-

[16]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation., op.cit.., pp. 182-185.

3) Wheeler Peak Glacier or Glacieret.

This feature is described by Dr. Waite as: "...a remarkable 2,000 foot span of moving ice....."[17] and ".....the only permanent body of ice in the region".[18] Additional statements made in the thesis read as follows: "Located at the head of the deep Wheeler Cirque, it is the remnant of the large Lehman Creek Glacier that existed here during the Pleistocene. This was one of the largest ice masses in the Great Basin and was responsible for the construction of a variety of glacial land forms in Lehman Creek Canyon. With the warming of the climate in the Recent epoch, it slowly retreated headward, leaving only the small glacieret on the cirque headwall." (underlining mine, Ed.) "Today, however, this remnant is remarkable in that it is the only one of its kind in the Great Basin; and that it still exists, long after glaciers in neighboring ranges have since disappeared. Its significance also lies in its location so far south and in such close association with the present day desert. When it is realized that this body of ice exists only 6,000 feet above the arid basins, and that permanent snowline conditions at this latitude ($39^{o}N$) would be above 15,000 feet", (underlining mine, Ed.) "then it becomes apparent that its presence here is atypical and represents something of a geographical anomoly."[19]

Two assertions contained in these quotes are erroneous. First, this "glacieret" is not "the remnant of the large Lehman Creek Glacier that existed here during the Pleistocene". If it were, it would be located in the bowl-shaped bottom of the old cirque, not

17 Waite, Robert S. Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, op.cit., p.3

18 Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time...?", op.cit., p. 18

19 Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation...,op.cit., pp. 108-109

"on the cirque headwall". This glacieret is a "new" feature, formed in a crevice located on the steep north-facing slope of the south headwall. Secondly, this glacieret is not a permanent body of ice. Investigators during the summers of 1931, 1934 and 1978 found no trace of it. "no ice, no snow, not a drop of water to drink".[20]

When Dr. Waite says that the presence here of a permanent body of ice "is atypical and represents something of a geographical anomaly", he is certainly correct. The mean temperature of the atmosphere and hence the approximate temperature of the ground at this latitude and elevation, is about 40°F. In contrast, the southern limit of Arctic permafrost is delineated by a line where the mean temperature is somewhere between 18° and 32°F.[21]

Additional quotes from Dr. Waite read: "The Wheeler Glacieret is a crescent-shaped body located on the headwall of the cirque at an elevation between 11,300 and 11,600 feet. It is approximately 2,000 feet long and 300 feet wide, with the long axis paralleling the base of the Cirque wall." (Underlining mine, Ed.) "In the southeast corner it extends upward several hundred feet into the higher cliffs ... while the western extension terminates near the opposite side of the cirque headwall."[22]

The only portion of the glacieret which moves along its long axis (lengthwise) is the portion which "extends upward several hundred feet into the higher cliffs". This portion lies in a crevice in the headwall. Its average angle of repose is a steep 50°, so it might well be expected to slide periodically. The re-

[20]Personal interview with Shirley George Robison, one of the investigators, Jan., 1979, and personal observation, September, 1978.

[21]Fairbridge, Rhodes W., The Encyclopedia of Geomorphology, Reinhard Book Corporation, New York, 1968, p. 371.

[22]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation...,op.cit. pp. 109-111.

mainder of the glacieret lies nestled in the juncture between the base of the headwall and the cirque floor and moves only a very short distance along its short axis (sideways).

The dimensions of the glacieret vary considerably. A measurement made in August, 1883, gives the dimensions as 1,500 feet long, 200 feet wide and 20 to 30 feet thick.[23] In 1955, the Forest Service arrived at the dimensions given by Waite, 2,000 feet long, 300 feet wide, and an estimated thickness of 75 feet.[24]

According to annual precipitation measurements made at Baker Creek #2 Snowcourse two miles distant from the cirque, the 1955 measurement of the glacieret was preceded by a decade in which precipitation averaged 96% of normal.[25] These dimensions, therefore, should probably be considered reliable for its average size. In August of 1977, a very dry year, the thickness of the glacieret measured only 4 feet.[26] In August of 1978, the glacieret had melted entirely. Although precipitation in 1978 was 85% of normal, the previous decade had averaged only 68%.

In years when precipitation is average or above, the glacieret is likely to remain covered with snow throughout the year; in this condition it looks like a small patch of snow in one corner of the huge cirque (2,000 feet deep, 4,000 feet wide, 8,000 feet long). In relatively dry years, however, blue ice, crevasses and bergschrunds may sometimes be seen in late August and September. Unfortunately, the cirque lakes in this vicinity, a spring season attraction, are either dry or nearly dry this late in the season.

-17-

[23] Eimbeck, William, his report in Russell, Israel C., Fifth Annual Report, 1883-1884, U.S. Geological Survey, 1884, 00.342-343.

[24] US Forest Service, "Proposed Glacier Scenic Area", Nevada National Forest, East Ely, Nevada, February 15, 1956, p.1.

[25] Barton, Manes and Malsor, Roy E., Jr., Summary of Snow Measurements for Nevada, 1941-1962, US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Conservation and National Resources, September, 1962, Baker Creek #2

[26] Personal conservation with J. Dean Baker, January, 1978

In summary, this glacieret, because of its intermittent existence and its location in a crevice on the cirque wall, is not the remnant of the Pleistocene glacier which once filled Lehaman Creek Canyon. It should not be called a glacier because it is too small, lies at too steep an angle, and in other respects does not resemble the mental picture of a glacier which most people have. If it is called a glacier a great many people are disappointed by it. The term "glacieret", while not well known, is appropriate for this feature.

Because this glacieret is not always present, certain claims of uniqueness for Wheeler Peak must be discounted. We must subtract ½ of a life zone from Dr. Waite's description, or, to return to his latitudinal analogue, we must travel southward again from the edge of the Arctic Icecap (83° N. latitude) to Prince of Wales Island (74° N. latitude), which is roughly equivalent to shaving about 2,000 nonexistant feet from the top of the mountain. What remains is typical of what we would expect to find, and not, in fact, a "geographical anomaly".

4) Wheeler Peak Rock Glacier

Dr. Waite's description in the thesis reads, in part, as follows: "It occupies the upper portion of the large Wheeler Peak Cirque, originating at an elevation of 11,280 feet. Here it is contiguous with the lower margin of the Wheeler Glacieret, with the head of the rock stream being located about 100 feet from the cirque headwall. From this point the feature descends downslope one-half mile to the 10,720 foot level, halfway down the Cirque with its terminal end located several hundred feet above the ancient bristlecone pine stand in the cirque mouth. Its areal extent is approximately one-half mile long and 600 feet wide, and has a vertical descent of 650 feet, with an average slope of about 35°". [27]

[27]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit., p68

There are some small problems with this description. First, "It occupies the upper portion of the large Wheeler Peak Cirque" implies that it is larger than it really is. A better description might read: "It lies in the bottom of the upper portion of the cirque". Secondly, its terminal end is not located "halfway down the cirque... several hundred feet above the ancient bristlecone pine stand", but instead, "about ¼ of the way down the cirque, several thousand feet above the bristlecones...." Thirdly, subtracting 10,720 (lower end elevation) from 11,280 (upper end elevation) leaves an elevation difference of 560 feet rather than 650. This is probably a typographical error. Nevertheless, its average slope is about 11° instead of 35°.

Continuing with Dr. Waite's description: "In terms of the geomorphic character of the rock glacier it is not entirely uniform throughout, but rather is composed of two somewhat differing sections: 1) a younger upper segment underlain by ice of the Wheeler Glacieret that is helping to actively move the rock mass downslope; and, 2) an older lower segment roughly divided into two benches, that is not underlain by ice and appears to be more stabilized in its downward progression. The upper portion, located in juxtaposition to the Wheeler Glacieret, benefits directly from the lubricating effect of the underlying ice during the periods of summer melting, which imparts a type of glacial movement to the rock mass. The permanence of this subsurface ice is insured because of its buried, protected location, and the persistently cold temperature conditions in the upper cirque throughout the year....Although the extent of the frozen layer is unknown, it is likely it may extend several hundred feet downslope, being coincident with the upper portion of the feature."[28]

In the foregoing description, the permanence of the ice underlying the upper "segment" of the rock glacier is

[28]Ibid, p. 70

a mere assumption. The reasoning here appears to be that because the upper segment moves periodically downslope, it must be underlain by a field of permanent ice. This assumption is unwarranted for two reasons: First, the elevation of the rock glacier is about 4,000 feet lower than one would expect to find permanent ice at this latitude, with a mean and ground temperature of about 40°F. And although Dr. Waite alludes to "its buried, protected location, and persistently cold temperature conditions in the upper cirque throughout the year", he has not demonstrated, nor has anyone else, that the temperature is cold enough to sustain permanent ice. Secondly, a rock glacier does not require a bed of permanent ice in order to move downslope en masse. Consider the following:

"(Rock glaciers) are well known in parts of the Alps, the Pyrenees, Scandinavia and in the Rocky Mountains, (especially Montana, Wyoming and Colorado). The components are glacially riven boulders and angular fragments. The shape of these talus trains is rather similar to that of a true glacier, except that ice is normally absent. They are up to a few kilometers wide, 1,000 meters long and 50 meters thick. They are lubricated by seasonal penetration of snow and melt water and are constantly in motion due to freeze and thaw (elevation and constriction). The angle of flow may be quite gentle, less than 5°.... Some formerly active rock streams are now inactive or very sluggish owing to the climatic amelioration of the last half century."[29]

There seems to be convincing evidence that the upper portion of the rock glacier moves seasonally down the slope, pushing hard against the "more stabilized" lower portion. This lower portion however, is now motionless according to all studies made to date. It does have the classical form of a rock stream nevertheless, and no doubt this portion has moved in characteristic fashion over long periods of time in the past..

[29]Fairbridge, Rhodes W., The Encylopedia of Geomorphology. Reinhold Book Corporation, New York, 1968, p. 966

My concern here is not to dispute the existence of the rock glacier, but to indicate that certain aspects of its description are inaccurate. It is a mistake to assume that movement of the rock glacier constitutes evidence of permanent glacial ice on Wheeler Peak. And since recent movement of the lower portion of the rock stream has not been substantiated, it is probably not accurate to suggest that the entire formation is in motion.

5) Lexington Arch

Dr. Waite's description of Lexington Arch in the thesis is reasonably accurate. It does have "a span of approximately 120 feet with an opening 75 feet high".[30] It is made of Oriole Limestone and is the largest arch of its kind in the Great Basin, or, as Waite has said during his slide lectures, "perhaps in the entire world".

Notwithstanding, Lexington Arch is neither impressive nor beautiful. It is important to note that there are, just outside the Great Basin, less than a day's drive away in southern Utah, scores of sandstone arches in places like Canyonlands National Park, Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument, Capitol Reef National Park and Arches National Park.

Sandstone arches are visually exciting and these are known to be the most beautiful in the world. They are graceful, colorful, weathered smooth and located in settings where the surrounding scenery is dramatic. In comparison, Lexington Arch looks crude; its color is gray and its texture rough. It looks heavy rather than graceful. It is situated in a winding canyon with high, steep slopes on both sides so that its profile does not show up in contrast against its surroundings or the sky unless one happens to find exactly the right spot. The fact of its existence in connection with Great Basin geology is virtually meaningless; it is a novelty, nothing more.

[30]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geological Interpretation..., op.cit., p.63

Many of the people who come to the South Snake Range are on their way to or from the Utah parks and monuments. Most visitors to Lexington Arch are disappointed by it; they find it relatively unremarkable. A few have said that they saw its name on a map, went to see it and came back feeling that it was a waste of time.

6) Bristlecone Pines

One of Dr. Waite's magazine articles contains the following short paragraph: "The Snake Range is of particular botanical interest because it contains the world's oldest known trees, ancient bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) with some trees exceeding 5,000 years in age".[31] His most recent promotional pamphlet contains the following statements: "Ancient 5,000 year old bristlecone pine have outlived all other life forms ...."[32] "Today 5,000 year old trees and wood fragments dating back 10,000 years, still survive."[33] The first sentence in the bristlecone pine section of the thesis reads as follows: "The Snake Range... contains the oldest known bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) with some individuals being over 5,000 years old."[34]

Each of these statements, repeated many times the last 16 years, not only by Waite, but by Sierra Club publications [35] and others, is untrue and misleading as follows:

One bristlecone pine tree has been found which was still alive at the age of about 5,200 years. This tree grew on a lateral moraine above the Wheeler Peak Cirque. It was cut down in 1964 by Donald R. Curry, a geography

[31] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time.....?", op.cit., p. 38
[32] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind The Scenery, op.cit., p. 2
[33] Ibid., p.4
[34] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit., p310
[35] See Baker, James, "The Snake Range, Alpine Lakes and Bristlecone Pines", Sierra Club Magazine, Jan.-Feb., 1984.

professor who wanted to find out how old it was. No other bristlecone pine tree, living or dead, has been found which attained the age of 5,000 years. The oldest tree now known is living in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Primitive Area, Inyo National Forest, in the White Mountains of California; it is somewhere between 4,600 and 4700 years old.

Bristlecone pines have not "outlived all other life forms". Ginko biloba, a Chinese species of tree, may be twice as old as the species Pinus longaeva.[36] Looked at another way, creosote bushes in California, clones of an ancient root system, live to be 3,000 years older than bristlecone pines, and a Pennsylvania box huckleberry lives somewhere between 8,000 and 13,000 years. Cattails in the Nile may be older still.[37]

"Other life forms" aside, the oldest trees in the world are probably not bristlecone pines either, but cedars which grow in Japan (Cryptomeria japonica), some of which may be well over 6,000 years old.[38] China's dawn redwoods may also be older than bristlecone pines.

Any wood fragments known to be 10,000 years old would be located at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, Tucson. According to the laboratory's director, Dr. C.W. Ferguson, the master chonology for bristlecone pines now reaches back about 9,200 years.[39] No one has ever found a 10,000 year old bristlecone pine fragment, although one which may have been far older was burned in a campfire by an archeology professor.[40]

Thus the tree ring record provided by bristlecone pines which Waite says is expected to reach back to the

[36] McWhirter, Norris, Guinness Book of World Records, Stirling Publishing Company, New York, Bantam Edition, 1979, p. 119

[37] Heinrichs, Jay, "Is It The Oldest Living Thing?", National Wildlife, December-January, 1986, p. 21

[38] McWhirter, op.cit., p. 119

[39] & [40] Personal conversation with C.W. Ferguson.

63-105 O - 86 - 6

last Ice Age[41] actually goes back only half or two-thirds that distance in time.

Bristlecone pine forests throughout the six-state habitat of the bristlecone pine have been searched carefully in the last 30 years. Though not impossible, it is unlikely that older bristlecone pine trees will be discovered.

Dr. Waite's thesis makes reference to four important stands of bristlecone pines. One of these, the Mt. Moriah stand, is situated on an adjacent mountain range well outside the boundaries of the proposed national park. Another, located on "Bristlecone Peak", is, in fact, insignificant. Dr. Ferguson obtained core samples from all likely-looking trees in this vicinity. They are neither very old nor very numerous. Dead snags proved to be relatively young also. Meanwhile, Dr. Waite is the only person in the world who calls this place "Bristlecone Peak".

To summarize the remainder of Waite's thesis on this subject: The section devoted to bristlecone pines is 33 pages long. It contains an average of one substantive error for every five sentences.

7) The World's Largest Mountain Mahogany

In one of Dr. Waite's magazine articles he writes: "The world's largest known (mountain mahogany) is found in Lehman Creek Canyon at the upper Lehman Creek Campground. Its height is about 40 feet."[42]

The campground in which this tree grows was built about 40 years ago, before the tree was suspected of being the largest of its species. People have chopped off several of its limbs. Mountain mahoganies are usually about the size of a typical apple tree. Picture

[41] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park; A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit., p. 343

[42] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time.....?" op.cit., p.38.

the world's largest apple tree, about 40 feet high and you will realize that this is not a spectacle of the first magnitude. But wait a minute. This tree is in fact only 23 feet high and it is dying of old age. Ely District Forest Ranger Paul DeMuelle says that it will certainly be gone in 5 to 10 years.[43]

8) Prehistoric Fremont Indian Villages

In Dr. Waite's thesis, a relatively large amount of space is devoted to the history of aboriginal occupation of the Great Basin. The information is comprehensive in scope, based on textbooks and the theoretical interpretations of archeologists who have excavated sites of Indian habitation throughout the Western United States. Dr. Waite envisions the Great Basin National Park as a place where this story should be told, illustrated with local artifacts. He maintains that the South Snake Range is one of the best places to tell this story because of the wealth of Indian habitation sites in the area.

Waite writes in a magazine article: "Two ancient Fremont Indian villages, representing primitive man's highest stage of development in the Great Basin, are located here. The prehistoric Indian villages are particularly interesting because they represent the most westerly known Fremont settlements, a culture that originated eastward on the Colorado plateau in the vicinity of the Four Corners Area."[44] In the thesis he writes: "The Garrison site was partially excavated during the summer of 1952, while the Baker site still remains unexcavated, affording a fine research opportunity for further investigation".[45]

[43]Personal conversation, 22 December, 1985.
[44]Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time.....?", op.cit., p.38
[45]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation...op.cit.,p401

In fact, nothing resembling a "village" is visible at either of these sites. At Garrison, a trained observer, having been told what to look for, can search and usually find the locations of some of the structures. When this site was partly excavated by University of Utah students during a two-month period in 1952, the excavations were bulldozed in at the end of the project. At this and other sites, all of what Dr. Waite describes remains buried. Although the Garrison site retains some potential for future excavation and study, the Baker site and others in the vicinity have little or no potential because their remains have been widely scattered by stream and flash-flood action.[46] Meanwhile, within a few hundred miles to the east and south lie hundreds of similar village sites which are in much better state of preservation. These constitute a long list of high-priority sites which will require many years to investigate if funds become available.[47]

In addition to the fact that these habitation sites are of very marginal value compared with hundreds of others, they are not located inside the boundaries of the proposed park. There are no villages, Fremont or otherwise, located within these boundaries. The nearest site is about 5 miles away and all of them but one are located on privately owned land where they are protected by "thou-shalt-not-dig" policies of the owners.

The remote location of these sites would present essentially two problems: the first, to park administrators, that of interpretation; the second, to local residents, that of trespass. Most professional interpreters know better than to try to interest people in something they cannot see. In addition, many people are not content merely to look at the photographs and displays which are provided; they want to see villages. This results in trespass as curious strangers wander onto private property. Thus, for practical purposes, all of the sites of Indian villages in the vicinity of the

[46] Personal conversation onsite with Evan Deblocis, Ph.D., Chief Archeologist, Region 4, U.S. Forest Service, Ogden, Utah, October, 1975

[47] Ibid.

South Snake Range are probably beyond the reach of the proposed national park.

9) Osceola

Another large section of Dr. Waite's thesis is devoted to a long recitation on pioneer history. Most of it was taken from textbooks. Part of it comes from the files at Lehman Caves National Monument where some of the National Park Service employees have made valient attempts over the years to compile a history of Snake Valley for use by their tour guides. This material is inaccurate through no fault of Waite's except that he has apparently accepted it uncritically.

Dr. Waite's discussions of local history are full of misunderstandings, yet he insists that pioneer history should be one of the major themes of interpretation at the proposed park. To this end he recommends Osceola as a site for this interpretation. In a magazine article he writes: "Osceola, one of the most famous gold-producing towns in Nevada, is unique in that it was the largest gold mining center in White Pine County. Located in Grubstake Gulch at 6,800 feet on the western side of the range, it is one of the most interesting of the 250 ghost towns in the Great Basin. During its existence, it was the longest-lived placer town in the region: It produced the largest gold nugget found in Nevada, weighing approximately 25 pounds; contained a ride-in saloon where a patron could ride up to the bar, order his drink and never dismount; and is known for the historic Osceola ditch, an ingenious scheme devised to carry water from both sides of the range to supply the hydraulic mining operations." [48]

The situation with regard to Osceola is similar to that of the Indian villages. There is a little left of

[48]Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time.....?", op.cit., p 38

one of the buildings, part of its rock walls. The rest of the town burned down and blew away nearly half a century ago. Osceola is not located inside the proposed park boundaries. Every inch of the site and its surrounding terrain has been taken up by private mineral claims which date back to the 1880's and is worked each year by modern earthmoving equipment. In short, Osceola is gone; it is history.

Dr. Waite's plan concerning Osceola is, of course, to rebuild it; buy out the people who own it (or, to be more specific, invalidate their mineral claims through legal or legislative action), put "Grubstake Gulch" back about where it was, and restore the old ghost town.

Whether the National Park Service would choose to undertake this ambitious and expensive project is not known. This uncertainty causes a great deal of concern to those who own mineral claims in Osceola and elsewhere. Many local residents would lose significant amounts of private capital and access to valuable natural resources if the park were established. Uncertainty about remote sites such as Osceola or the Indian villages amounts to uncertainty about how much these local residents are being asked to sacrifice. It would be helpful to know whether these sites really figure in the park proposal or not.

10) Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station

In a magazine article, Dr. Waite writes: "In 1881, members of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey entered the Great Basin to conduct the first large-scale land survey of the region. In this work prominent mountain peaks were used for survey stations, from which point-triangulation measurements were made. These stations were located on prominent peaks extending from the Southern Rocky Mountains to Mt. Shasta, California. On these selected mountain peaks, heliographs or heliotropes were established which consisted of large mirrors mounted on tripods that worked on a swivel. The mirrors could be rotated to catch the sun's rays and reflect communication during the daylight

hours."[49]

This story is relatively interesting and offers a good opportunity for interpretation. Nevertheless, the project would be a relatively simple one; most of what is known about the heliograph station on Wheeler Peak is contained in the paragraph above. There are no artifacts left to protect at the summit where the station was located. The Forest Service, the agency responsible for the site at the present time, has researched the story thoroughly and developed plans for its interpretation. It is not necessary to create a national park in order that this interpretation opportunity may be recognized and realized.

11) Cirque Lakes

A description in one of Dr. Waite's magazine articles reads: "On the Southern Snake Range are six attractive glacial lakes. Five of the lakes are situated in high cirque basins at elevations above 10,000 feet: Stella Lake, Teresa Lake and Brown Lake in upper Lehman Creek Canyon; and Baker and Johnson Lakes at the head of Baker Creek and Snake Creek Canyons. They are all formed in glacial cirques and impounded behind recessional morainal dams. The water is exceptionally clear, forming the home for rainbow and brook trout."[50]

Dr. Waite says these lakes are attractive. In the early spring season almost anyone would agree with him. But they are small and they begin to dry up as soon as the snow melts. By midsummer they are halfway down and by fall of some years some of them are entirely dry. The largest, Baker Lake, becomes a series of small ponds surrounded by acres of bare rocks. The photographs which Dr. Waite uses in his slide lectures to illustrate these lakes were all taken in the spring when the lakes are high.

Two of the six lakes contain fish; the others do not because they freeze solid during winters when there is water left in them.

[49]Ibid., p. 38 [50]Ibid., p. 38

12) Bald Mountain Ski Resort

This is the last of Dr. Waite's dozen features which he insists are good reasons for making the South Snake Range into a national park. This resort does not exist at the present time but Waite seems convinced that it should be built and that it will be a profitable enterprise. It would be privately operated under the supervision of the National Park Service.

Dr. Waite writes in the thesis: "In considering the development of a Bald Mountain Ski Area, there are four important factors that need to be considered: the 1) presence of sufficient snow; 2) local slope characteristics; 3) accessibility to potential skiers; and, 4) attractiveness of the area to the skiing public. First, from snow surveys made at the Baker Creek Snowcourse over the past twenty-five years, it has been established that sufficient snow is present even in the driest years.... In average years the snowpack is generally over 5 feet deep, as indicated by snow markers placed in Baker Creek Canyon. This cover is present from mid-November to mid-April, indicating that adequate snow conditions exist over a five-month period, a span comparable to other western mountains." [51]

In cooperation with the Forest Service and under a contract with the Soil Conservation Service, I have been measuring the snow (depth and water content) at the Baker Creek Snowcourses every year since 1969. Measurements are made in exactly the same place two or three times each winter according to strict procedures established many years ago. Data obtained in this manner are used to predict water runoff figures for the spring and summer seasons to follow.

In average years the snowpack is generally over five feet deep on the higher of the two Baker Creek Snowcourses only at the end of March, the approximate

[51] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit., pp. 713-714

peak of snowpack depth each year. This cover is not present at this depth from mid-November to mid-April. The average depth here at the end of January is about 3 feet; in dry years it can read less than one foot.

This Baker Creek Snowcourse is located at about 9,300 feet in the bottom of a deep canyon, a protected location several miles from the area proposed for the Bald Mountain Ski Resort. In order to correlate the amount of snow at Bald Mountain with the depths measured at Baker Creek, the Forest Service measured snow at Bald Mountain in March of 1979. At that time the depth at the Baker Creek Snowcourse was 68 inches. The deepest measurement found anywhere across the area of the proposed ski resort was 34 inches; the average was a little over 2 feet.[52] This measurement, taken at the peak time for snowpack depth in an average year, indicates that there is probably not enough snow to support a ski resort for even one month in an average year.

The remainder of Dr. Waite's discussion in the thesis consists of conjecture and optimism about the feasibility of this ski resort, which would feature a ski lodge with luxury facilities and one of the longest lifts in the United States.[53] Few figures are given. This section ends with the statement: "Certainly if Sun Valley, Idaho, can succeed, which occupies an even more remote location, the same potential exists for a ski resort in eastern Nevada".[54]

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Dr. Waite's descriptions of twelve features which "argue strongly" that the South Snake Range should be classified as a national park are seriously inaccurate. When the errors are noted, the author's claims of the

[52]Personal knowledge. This author obtained the measurements.

[53]Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op.cit. pp. 708-712

[54]Ibid., p. 717

uniqueness and suitability of the proposed site collapse; we are left with twelve features which are of marginal "park quality" value at best.

Waite's estimate that 500,000 people per year will visit the park by the end of the century is not supported by a study; it is nothing more than a guess and a hope. Canyonlands National Park, recently established in southern Utah, has not attracted the numbers of visitors predicted by its promoters. All of the small towns in the vicinity of Canyonlands display a number of boarded-up motels and cafes.[55] The number of visitors at Redwood National Park in California, another recent park, has been 20 to 25% of the predicted number.[56] I believe that Dr. Waite's figure of 500,000 is at least twice as high as it should be.

At the same time, Dr. Waite has grossly underestimated the economic value of capital, natural resources and commerce associated with withdrawing the South Snake Range from multiple-use management. These losses would probably be about five to ten times as much as Dr. Waite has indicated.

We are left with a large number of unanswered questions about what to expect if Great Basin National Park is established. How many visitors is the National Park Service expecting? What kinds of facilities would the National Park Service expect to construct inside the park? Are the proposed boundaries firm or will they expand in the future? Does the National Park Service have any interest in the Indian Villages or Osceola and does it have the funds to develop them? If so, what sorts of alternative plans will be considered? What restrictions will be placed on grazing and mining inside the park? These

[55]Personal knowledge.

[56]Personal conversation with Russell D. Butcher, a staff-person of the National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington, D.C., 13 January 1986.

questions and many others need to be answered before the debate on the park question can proceed in a constructive direction. Dr. Waite's promotional literature does not constitute a study which will help answer these questions. New studies are urgently needed, particularly in the area of economics.

The value of the park to the economy of the state and the county is an unknown quantity at the present time. Also unknown is the nature and extent of development which the National Park Service will recommend after spending three years in the completion of a management plan. Meanwhile, an alliance of environmentalists and commercialists pushes the proposal forward. This alliance is inherently weak because each of these groups has different reasons for wanting a national park. These reasons, once a practical level is reached, will be in direct conflict with one another.

Once a Great Basin National Park is established, the practical level will have been reached. The environmentalists and the commercialists will find themselves on opposite sides of most subsequent park-related issues. Who will take the responsibility for resolving the conflicts which the promoters of this park will be unable to keep under control?

The National Park Service will probably have the deciding influence in determining how the existence of the park will affect the adjacent communities. My guess is that the park, if established, will prove to be a disappointment to virtually everyone and most of all, ultimately, to the employees of the National Park Service who will have a tough and nasty job on their hands, that of trying to administer an over-sold and sub-standard national park.

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Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada, University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D., 1974.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Art, let me ask your opinion since you represent some of the business interests here.

Would you rather see the wilderness bill by itself without the park in it?

Mr. OLSON. No, sir, I would not.

Senator HECHT. You would not?

Mr. OLSON. No.

Senator HECHT. You want the two to be put together?

Mr. OLSON. That's right.

I'll tell you, Senator, a real concern I have, personally: First of all, wilderness, looks like it's being mandated. All our legislators are supporting some type of a wilderness bill, so we're going to get wilderness.

Wilderness, to me, restricts the land quite a bit to public usage. I'm talking about older people, and I'm talking about people who are not inclined to go backpacking and this sort of thing.

What we're faced with here, in essence, to my way of thinking, is a bill that has wilderness and a park that has potential for the development for people of the United States or we've got a situation where we're going to have wilderness and more wilderness.

So, to me, the park is a very intricate part of this and should be maintained within that.

Senator HECHT. Just so I'll understand exactly the feelings of the business community bill, which wilderness bill do you support?

Mr. OLSON. I'm not representing any group, but the people I've talked with and the people I'm associated with support the smallest possible widerness area that can be written, as long as there is a park in it.

Senator HECHT. OK. You are in the business community, so when you speak you do speak somewhat for the business community.

Mr. OLSON. I'm not representing any group. I'm speaking for myself, but I am a businessman.

Senator HECHT. Right, and a good one, and your cousin, Bob Broadbent, said to give you his regards.

Barbara, do you have anything you want to say?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I have no questions. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you all very much. We'll go right on to the next panel. Ferrel Hansen, Gary Fairman, Mark Bybee, Joy Bybee, Dave Tilford, Mary Louise Christian.

I've just been informed by the staff we'd like to have a 5-minute break. We will convene in exactly 5 minutes.

[Brief recess taken.]

Senator HECHT. Panel No. 9. Mr. Ferrel Hansen.

STATEMENT OF FERREL D. HANSEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Senator, and let me welcome you and Congresswoman Vucanovich back to Ely.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Mr. HANSEN. And your staff as well.

First of all, my name is Ferrel Hansen, and I'm the executive vice president of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce.

Let me also state that I'm endorsing the Great Basin National Park on behalf of the following: Union Plaza Hotel; Hyatt; Flamingo Hilton; the Reno Hilton; Pioche Chamber of Commerce; Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Peterson, UT, Chamber of Commerce; Magna, UT, Chamber of Commerce; St. George, UT, Chamber of Commerce; Fillmore, UT, Chamber of Commerce.

Economic security, presently and in our past, has been supplied by the mining and agricultural industries.

It is my hope that these industries will continue to prosper always for the sake of all Nevadans. However, with the closing of Kennecott's operations in the late 1970's, we in White Pine learned that you cannot depend on one industry for your future well-being.

Agriculture in eastern Nevada is not only a large part of our heritage, but also a continuing part of our current way of life.

However, approximately 114 jobs were created in White Pine County in 1984 by agriculture, compared to 2,840 total jobs in the area for the same period, or 4 percent agriculture related.

Our economy cannot be sustained by this industry. We need desperately to diversify.

The agricultural industry nationwide is in serious financial trouble, and so is White Pine County. Agriculture, for that matter, and mining can coexist in White Pine County and they will not become extinct.

It seems that some sportsmen's organizations in White Pine have come out in opposition to the creation of a national park in the Mount Wheeler area. I too am an avid sportsman. These sportsmen's organizations do not speak for me.

I have spent many hours in the Mount Wheeler area hunting and horsebacking into the high alpine lakes. In 1984, 132 muledeer were harvested from the South Snake division of the Humboldt National Forest, an amount insignificant to the total harvest of either the county or the State. Too many of my friends I grew up with in this county are living, working, and hunting in other areas of the State and Nation because they are unable to stay in White Pine County and make a living for themselves and their families. A national park for Mount Wheeler would go a long way toward creating new jobs to bring them back.

A change in status from a national monument to a national park, the name recognition alone could mean thousands more visitor days of use for the area. Visitor days would steadily increase year by year to create another reason why all America should come to Nevada, a reason aside from gambling, a reason that would augment this industry, too.

Give White Pine County an opportunity to make itself a designated tourism area by creating the Great Basin National Park. Without it, we will remain captive to the ups and downs of the metals market and the price of agricultural products.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hansen follows:]

White Pine
Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (702) 289-8877
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Ely, Nevada
89301

HONORABLE CHIC HECHT
U.S. Senator
February 10, 1986

My name is Ferrel Hansen and I am the Excutive Vice President of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce.

First of all let me welcome you, Senators Hecht and Wallop to White Pine as well as welcome back Congressman Vucanovich and your staffs. Our residents do sincerely appreciate your being here to hear our views.

In my capacity with the Chamber and prior involvement in the community as a whole, I have been involved in many different efforts to diversify our local economy. However, economic diversification in any area is a long term commitment to a series of objectives and finally, goals. White Pine County has met many of those objectives and eventually, with your support, our goals will be achieved. The most important of those goals being economic security for our area. This security, presently and in our past, has been supplied by the mining and agricultural industries. It is my hope that they will continue to provide economic benefit to the residents of White Pine County for as long into our future as is feasible, and that these industries will continue to prosper always for the sake of all Nevadans. However, with the closing of Kennecott's operations in the late 70's, we in White Pine County learned a valuable lesson, the hard way. We learned that you cannot depend on one industry for your future well being! In a September 1985 news article published in the Ely Daily Times, it was reported at the Nevada Mining Association's annual convention that this once flourishing industry was in the throes of a "wrenching depression," this is an occurrence that is felt throughout the fabric of White Pine County's economy. Although I would sincerely like to see this industry continue to flourish in Nevada and locally, we cannot continue to stake our very futures and the futures of our children on the metals market. Furthermore, I feel that mining can co-exist with other industries in Eastern Nevada.

Within the boundaries of the proposed park there are six grazing permittees on seven grazing allotments who will feel some effect of change in management by a different agency of the federal government, namely the National Park Service. I do not feel that these six individuals have the right or the ability to control the future of the other 7,600 people of White Pine!

With the creation of the Great Basin National Park, mining and agriculture will not be adversely effected in White Pine County as a whole. Neither one of these industries will become extinct in White Pine County! Tourism, a cleand and stable growth industry, can co-exsit with each of these other industries.

It seems that some sportsmen's organizations in White Pine have come out in opposition to the creation of a National Park for the Mt. Wheeler area. I too am an avid outdoorsman, to include hunting, fishing, camping and horseback riding. These sportsmen's organizations do not speak for me. I have spent many hours in the Mt. Wheeler area hunting and horsepacking into the high alpine lakes.

In 1984, 132 Mule Deer were harvested from the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest, an amount insignificant to the total harvest of either the county or the state. I, as a hunter, must first recognize that my ability to hunt this area and any others in the county is primarily dependent on my employment situation in the area. If I don't have a job locally, chances are that future hunts will have to be conducted in the area I would have to move to, based on its close proximity to where I live. Too many of the friends I grew up with in this county are living, working and hunting in other areas of the state and nation because they were unable to stay in White Pine County and make a living for themselves and their families. I might add that many of them would gladly return if our economic situation improved. The creation of a National Park for Mt. Wheeler would go a long way towards that end.

The financial gain of National Park status, to the State of Nevada, is very simple. It is documented that a change in status from a National Monument to a National Park can expenct an increase in visitorship of 35% in the first two years of the designation. Considering that in 1984, Lehman Caves national Monument had approximately 39,000 visitors, we could have expected to have approximately 52,650 with park designation in 1986, had it been a National Park in 1984. This would realize an increase of $1,000,000 approximately to Nevada's economy in increased tourism initially, which would turn over seven times before it left the state. By the end of the first ten years, with an increase of 7% annually, Nevada would realize 136,500 new tourists who would spend $10,000,000 new dollars (1983) in our state. This would steadily increase, and most importantly, the local community would not be dependent on metal prices or agricultural prices! The potential for this park to become one of Nevada's most valued assets is unlimited! If you don't believe that, ask Utah what National Parks have done for their economy. They are talking about a sixth National Park in the state in San Juan County.

If you are interested in the facts surrounding mining solely within the effected area, which is the boundaries of the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest, I have done a great deal of investigating them also. In a report by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Mackay School of Mines, entitled Geology and Mineral Resources of White Pine County, Nevada (1976), (enclosed for your information) there are many interesting findings. I obtained this report from the U.S. Forest Service and it is available upon request. It is shown in this report that there is not a single mine within the boundaries of this proposed park that has produced anything (gold, silver, lead, beryllium, tungston and any other minerals showing) since 1963. I should emphasize the point that this includes the so called "...largest and purest deposit of beryllium on the face of the earth." In an excerpt from the above mentioned report I quote:

> Exploration for lead-zinc ore at the same mine in 1956 and 1957 by an 8,162-foot adit was unsuccessful, but led to the discovery in 1959 of a large beryllium deposit. Exploration continued through 1962 and some ore was stockpiled, but no sale of beryllium ore was reported through 1968.

In dusscusstions with the U.S. Forest Service representatives, no one could varify that any beryllium had been shipped or sold since 1968. In view of the available market, worldwide, for this mineral, that would be highly unlikely.

Keep in mind that in 1960, when the Great Basin National Park had its last best chance of becoming reality, it was defeated in the Senate based on its potential for mining. Well, this is 23 years later and no a thing has been produced from this area! Should we wait another 10, 100, 1,000 years to see what happens?

Agriculture in Eastern Nevada is not only a large part of our heritage but also a continuing part of our current way of life. The work ethic of our local residents is a heritage passed down from our agricultural ancestors, a work ethic that need not and will not be destroyed. However, when you examine the economics of this sector's contribution to our local economy you will find that 4%, or approximately 114 jobs were created in White Pine County in 1984 by agriculture, compared to 2,840 total jobs in the area for the same period. Our economy cannot be sustained by this industry. We need desperately to diversify. The agricultural industry, nationwide, is in serious financial trouble, and so is White Pine County. Small ranching operations as we have in White Pine may not exist after this decade. If you are honest with us and we are practical with ourselves, everyone would recognize that this is an industry that, at best, has an unstable future. Its future will most probably not be based in the small operations so prevalent in Eastern Nevada.

None of the proponents of this park issue are naive enough to expect that the creation of the park will be the answer to all our problems. Instead, it is a slow growth industry that will be here providing jobs many years from now, perhaps hundreds of years from now. The local economy will steadily grow rather than be tied to the fortunes, or misfortunes of the mining and agricultural industries. If just another leg can be added to our economic stool, maybe the next time one of those legs breaks off, as it did with the closure of Kennecott, we may still have a leg to stand on, and stand tall and proud.

The White Pine Chamber of Commerce and local governments within White Pine County have been trying for many years to develop this area as a toursim destination spot. We have met with limited success even though we truely have unlimited recreational opportunities here. The very best avenue to making this approach become reality is to create the Great Basin National Park! Without it we will remain vulnerable to the whims of the metals market and the price of wool, lamb and beef.

White Pine County needs the Great Basin National Park for the sake of its economy and its residents! Nevada needs the Great Basin National Park for the sake of its economy and its status! America needs the Great Basin National park as a showplace for the Great Basin ecosystem!

Sincerely,

Ferrel D. Hansen
Executive Vice President
White Pine Chamber of Commerce

FDH/la

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Gary Fairman.

STATEMENT OF GARY D. FAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. FAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, and welcome. My name is Gary Fairman. I'm a local White Pine County resident and have been so for 7 years. I'm also president of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce.

Let me say up front we very much, as the chamber of commerce, support your bills that have been introduced concerning wilderness. We think that a pared down wilderness in the State of Nevada is appropriate.

However, let us go on record, as we've done in the past, in supporting the national park location for White Pine County, NV.

It goes without saying that our economy in White Pine County is at a very low ebb, in part due to the lowliness at this point economically concerning the ranching and the mineral industries worldwide and nationwide. It is no fault of any of the ranchers or the miners in this area that we find ourselves in these straits.

We believe that economic diversification is very important. Last year, the least attended national park in the United States was in Utah, which had approximately 105,000 visitors. Now there's no analysis of what a park would necessarily bring to this area, but when you look at an economic standpoint, you've got to look at what the track records of national parks do nationwide, and we think the track record is oustanding and could certainly outweigh any detriments to perhaps losses in mining and ranching in the future. In the area we're talking about under proposal for the national park, there has been little or no active mining in the past 20 or 30 years. There are miners that are on that area that are mining, but we have nothing of the nature of a Silver King or Emselco Minerals or Kennecott in this area, and the question in how long do we wait in the future until something is going to be developed? Five years, 10 years, 100 years? We just don't know.

We believe that the bill that is currently introduced by Congressman Reid could be better written to provide for more guarantees for the permittees who have the allotments in the national park area to give the permittees, for a fixed period of time, grazing rights. The bill, as written now, is too permissive, and why not give the ranchers in this area some guarantees and also try to help them out by giving them a selection on allotments that might come up during any sort of period where they could have their rights to graze on the mountain, on either side of the mountain.

Just in connection, we believe, as far as the chamber of commerce is concerned, that the national park is not just a local issue here at Ely, NV, or a county issue, but it's very much a State issue and a national issue. We encourage you and the Representatives in the House to try to keep this out of the political football arena and to try to look at it from the aspect of value to Nevadans as well as local citizens of White Pine County.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fairman follows:]

February 10, 1986

The Honorable Senator Chic Hecht
304 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL FOR WHEELER PEAK/WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA

Dear Senator Hecht:

My name is Gary D. Fairman. I am a local attorney, a Native Nevadan and a resident of White Pine County for seven years. As President of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, it gives me pleasure to be able to express the Chamber's position concerning the location of the proposed Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, Nevada.

The Chamber of Commerce upon learning of the proposed location of the park in White Pine County initiated a nine person advisory committee to study the National Park proposal. We obtained as much information as possible on all points of view and made a decision concerning the proposed location of the Park. The advisory committee reported its findings and approval of the location of the Park to the Board of Directors of White Pine Chamber of Commerce on November 19, 1985, and as a result of that meeting the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors present voted ten in favor, five against, one abstention.

The considerations of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors considered concerning the part were its size, location, grazing rights, mining and mineral exploration, population increase, together with its impact on Baker, Nevada, water, the White Pine Power Project, recreation and tourism.

With respect to the above considerations a balance test of benefits versus detriments was asked to be employed not only of the Chambers advisory committee but also of the Board of Directors who were going to vote on the above issue.

The Chamber of Commerce is primarily made up of a business community located within White Pine County, State of Nevada, and in particular those business men and women from the City of Ely. It is our position as the Board of Directors of the Chamber that the economic benefits to be gained from a National Park outweigh the detriments or possible detriments to mining, recreation, grazing rights and hunting, which seem to be the most vocal considerations expressed.

Historically, throughout the United States, National Parks attract a significant number of tourists whether they happen to be on a major highway or whether they happen to be "off the beaten path". The minimum number that visits the parks of the State of Utah is approximately 100,000 per year and Lehman Caves only gets 37,000 persons per year as visitors.

It is true that historically White Pine County and the City of Ely have relied on mining and ranching. This is to a degree why the City of Ely and White Pine County finds themselves in the dire financial and economical situations which we exist today. We have 17% unemployment. It goes without saying that the metals market and the minerals industry is a highly volatile and fluctuating industry which there has been no stability nationwide or worldwide whether you take the iron and steel industry, the gold and silver industry, the cooper industry, or any other related industry including beryllium and tungston, no one can rely on these industries providing a consistent economic base to the community which relies upon them. Ely, Nevada, is case in point. Kennecott Cooper has been a valuable ally to Ely, Nevada. However, when the copper industry declined which was through no fault of anyone living in White Pine County, Nevada, so declined White Pine County, Nevada. With another economic base in White Pine County, Nevada, for a considerable amount of time we can prevent communities such as Ely from experiencing the highs of boom in the mineral industry and the lowly detrimental and financially back breaking busts of the mineral industry.

The Bill as written indicates that valid and existing mineral rights shall be protected. In reviesing the laws of the State of Nevada and those of the United States, valid and existing mining claims are those claims of an unpatented nature whose requirements have been fully complied with as far as their location, recordation, assessment work, and other particulars as set forth in the United States Code together with the Nevada Revised Statutes. They do not refer to patented mining claims to which the government has provided a deed or patents to the property. Patented mining claims are claims that are owed in fee simple and are addressed in the bill. There will be no further new exploration in this area. One can only ask if there has not been any significant mining in the last 40 to 50 years what leads you to believe there is going to be any significant exploration in the future? For that matter, there has been no active major mining in this area for over 40 years. Reference has been made to the fact that the Park Service will impose great restrictions making it too costly to mine. Is this infact why there is no mining going on today, because it is just too costly to mine. This has been the historical problem with the minerals industry and this Park is not going to either contribute or detract from this problem. When the value of minerals get high enough people mine, when the value of minerals is not high enough to offset the costs of production people do not mine. One other consideration that you must look at is just how much land are we taking away from the mineral industry compared to the

remaining land of the United States and in the State of Nevada. I submit to this hearing that it is insignificant when you look at the acreage compared on a whole. This Park is .24% of all of the acres in Nevada.

For those who are concerned with grazing, we at the Chamber do believe that the bill can be better written to protect the grazing rights. We believe at best the grazing rights can be protected for the lifetime of the permittee or the permittee's youngest child who may be in existence at the time this bill is passed. This should be written into the bill. We do not believe that grazing rights can be protected "forever". After all, whose land is this it not in private ownership and grazing is only a privilege. You must also realize that there were only 140 deer harvested in this area with 30,000 tags issued in the State of Nevada. In fact, there was a doe hunt on the Baker Ranch adjacent to the Park and there were numerous tags that were not even filled for this hunt.

Argument has been made that what if the tungston and beryllium industries of which there are deposits within the Park boundaries become a viable nature and cannot be produced due to the National Park. To address these concerns, there must be noted that the the tungston and berrylium claims are valid and are in existence at this time and will be preserved. It must be noted, that the tungston and berullium may become viable within one year or, one hundred years or two hundred or five hundred years. How can you bank on that?

One thing that strikes me as absolutely amazing in this bill is that this bill does not provide for the condemnation of fee simple ownership land within the Park boundaries. What this means to all ranchers and owners of other property within the boundaries of the Park is that their property can never be taken from them if this bill passes under any circumstances unless they give their consent to the purchase. It is typical of the Parks bills to provide for condemnation and take the land from the people. We strongly support this concept of private ownership remaining in fact.

On balance, the effect on increased tourism not only in White Pine County but the State of Nevada is considerable. Certainly, we cannot predict the exact number of people that are going to walk through the gate at the National Park. All we can do is look at the "track record" of National Parks in the United States and the number of people which are drawn to those National Parks. As stated earlier it does not appear to make any difference whether the Park is on a major highway or "off the beaten path". The basic facts are that Parks simply bring more people to the area. Although the Park is 60 miles from Ely, it would be up to the business community of Ely to attract those persons to Ely, Nevada. Even if we had as few as 100,000 visitors a year come to the National Park, it goes without saying that the amount of money spent in White Pine County would be substantially increased.

Our County Commission has expressed valid concern that we cannot afford a National Park because there are no impact monies provided. The impact monies will be provided because increased tourism will cause increased services to be provided, causing increased jobs, causing increased population to our community, causing an increased tax base to our community and the resulting effect will cause the County to have more money to mitigate these impacts. The location of the Park in White Pine County is not going to be the economic savior for the County, but it will be an economic base that will be of a consistent nature that we can rely upon.

Lastly, I have heard comments from people within White Pine County that Wheeler Peak is "just an ordinary mountain and does not merit National Park status because of its lack of attractions". I cannot believe what I am hearing. Although I am a lifelong native Nevadan, I have never had occasion to actually climb Wheeler Peak until this summer. I took with me friends from Reno as well as from Southern California. The, as well as I, were amazed at the utter beauty of this area. With its glacier, the Bristlecone Pines, the unusual geologic formations including Lehman Caves, the streams, the animal life present, how can any one be heard to say that, "this is just an old mountain". Remember, beauty is esthetic, it is in the eyes of the beholder and perhaps we have lived next to the mountain for so many years we just take it for granted as someone who may have lived in the Grand Tetons all of his or her life, or in the Grand Canyon for all of his or her life.

In conclusion, the Wheeler Peak area has all of the characteristics and qualities to be a National Park. It had these same qualities ten years ago, twenty years ago, one hundred thousand years ago. Lets give it the National Park status it deserves and lets give White Pine County that it deserves, some sort of viable economic base.

Thank you very much for your considerations and your concerns in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

GARY D. FAIRMAN
President, White Pine
Chamber of Commerce

GDF/phs

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mark Bybee. Joy Bybee.

STATEMENT OF J.M. BYBEE, CHAIRMAN, WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOURISM COMMITTEE

Mr. BYBEE. Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich, we're happy to be able to testify here today on behalf of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, of which I am chairman. I've been chairman of it for 4 years. It is comprised of six people besides myself. With our eye strictly on tourism for White Pine County, we work very closely with the State Tourism Committee, Carson City, and we work with the Pony Express Committee, that's a territory coming across the State of Nevada. I also serve on the Management Committee of the White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation which, for the record today, supports the national park.

We feel that it would be a plus for the Railroad Foundation to bring people into the area, to use that railroad and to see this railroad which we feel is a very unique thing to this area.

On behalf of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, I would like to go on record supporting the creation of a Great Basin National Park. We accept the wilderness bill and encourage our Washington Representatives to take a small part of that wilderness and make it a national park.

We feel the uniqueness of the area deserves the recognition and status of a national park, and the economic benefits would help stimulate the current decline of our population in the area. True, the employment created would be mostly service jobs, but 34 percent of our Nation's work force are in the service area of the job market.

The State of Nevada Tourism Commission has targeted rural Nevada to develop tourism, recognizing that as a consequence of rural Nevada's remoteness, we have a small chance of developing an industrial base. The national park would give the State Tourism Commission, our State Tourism Commission a big plus to work with.

If the park becomes a reality, we would not have a sudden impact to deal with, but a steady growth that we could adjust to in an orderly manner and blend into our present economy.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Since you all are representing, in one way or another, the chamber of commerce, let me ask the same question I asked Art a few minutes ago.

Do you favor a wilderness bill including a park, or would you have separate bills?

PANEL MEMBER. We would feel the bills should remain together if it's at all possible, to tie the wilderness bill with the park bill.

PANEL MEMBER. I would simply echo that. We feel that the wilderness bill, in one fashion or another, will be passed through Congress for the State of Nevada. We'd like to see a national park created along with that.

PANEL MEMBER. Very definitely so. I'd like to see it stay together because I think they are tied together in all senses.

Senator HECHT. Panel No. 10. Marshall Coopersmith, JoAnne Garrett, and Tom Guthrie.

Marshall Coopersmith.

STATEMENT OF MARSHALL COOPERSMITH, VICE CHAIRMAN, WHITE PINE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Mr. COOPERSMITH. Senator Hecht, a special meeting of the White Pine County Democratic Central Committee was convened on January 29, 1986 at Ely, NV. The proposed national park at Mount Wheeler was one of the subjects discussed, and a poll was taken. There were no dissenting votes.

We believe that a great majority of the voters in this county look favorably on the establishment of a national park here. The benefits would extend not only to our depressed economy, but to the entire State as well as the Nation. It would also alleviate the crowded conditions in the existing national parks and help preserve the Bristlecone pines, Lehman Caves, and other natural wonders in this area.

I've been asked also to read a letter from the senior citizens of White Pine County. This was done for the National Parks Subcommittee that was held here.

In a recent poll at our Senior Citizens Center in Ely, we found that the vast majority of senior citizens who participated in the nutrition program are strongly in favor of establishing a national park at the Wheeler Peak area. This could result in employment for our grandchildren and some of us and even our great grandchildren.

At the present time, there are practically no opportunities for summer jobs here. And in an area where older persons find few recreational facilities, a national park close to home is most appealing. Most of us will spend the rest of our lives in and around Ely, and we are concerned with our depressed economy. We know that the park will go a long way toward alleviating our present lack of security, and we strongly urge the park be approved as soon as possible.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. JoAnne Garrett.

STATEMENT OF JOANNE GARRETT, BAKER, NV

Ms. GARRETT. Thank you for this opportunity and for coming to Ely for this meeting. I know that we all care for the land. There isn't anyone here who doesn't, and we all would like to see the land kept as it is, at least the area that we know well around here, and it's been well cared for up until now, which is why it's so highly prized in terms of a prospect for wilderness.

Federal regulations are kind of a poor substitute for our taking care of the land ourselves, but it seems to be what we have, the mechanism that we have developed so far for regulating ourselves and our use of the land.

The main reason that I can see for wilderness which doesn't get mentioned very often, is that it protects the future of this place and does offer a way to keep the land as it is now. And principally, the resource that is most vital to Nevadans is water, and all of our water comes, as I understand it, from the high country, and the

high country is what is being dealt with in the wilderness bill. And I don't see how we can do without it.

I think clearly ranchers have learned to be in the business of caring for the land, and I don't think that their interests are identical with miners, and I don't think miners have yet learned the art of being on the land and leaving it in good condition when they are through with it. We are all painfully aware of the ugly scars that are left on the land by mining, and these perhaps are getting to be less devastating than they were once, but I've seen a road on Mount Moriah that was built in the last year or so that is a serious incursion on the watershed, and so I'm not convinced that we aren't at some jeopardy from that particular industry.

And as for handing over the control of our local affairs to other people, I think maybe I would rather see them in the hands of even on Ohio Senator than a Texas oilman.

Speaking for a moment as a board member of the Citizens Alert which has several thousand members in the State of Nevada. Citizens Alert is basically, I think, an environmental organization, at least one of public concern, and the board of Citizens Alert opposes the park as a designation for Mount Wheeler.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Just one last sentence.

Ms. GARRETT. Thanks. And the reason that I believe that that particular organization did oppose the park, unlike other environmental organizations, is that they happen to be familiar with Mount Wheeler, intimately familiar with it. And anyone who is aware knows that a park designation for Mount Wheeler is not the best disposition of that.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Ms. GARRETT. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Tom.

STATEMENT OF TOM GUTHRIE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN NEVADA SUPERVISED DEVELOPMENT CO.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Good afternoon, Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich.

My name is Tom Guthrie and I'm the executive director of Southern Nevada Supervised Development Co., a regional economic investment banking firm which provides technical and financial assistance to small businesses in both rural and urban Nevada.

The thrust of our efforts has been to bring about a greater awareness of the important role that small businesses play in economic development. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, we believe that kind of development comes from within our community by creating an evironment that is conducive to the growth and development of our State's small business sector.

Small business is the bedrock of our rural Nevada economy, and as you have heard here today, H.R. 3302 would have an adverse impact on our small business community.

I believe your proposal in Senate bill 722 is a reasonable and practical approach to Nevada wilderness area, and I would like to go on record as supporting that legislation.

Nevada small businesses want less Federal control over their lives, not more.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views and our concerns regarding the future wilderness of our State.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Tom. What about the park? You didn't address the park.

Mr. GUTHRIE. I think I go along with those chambers of commerce and other people who have spoken here today. The park goes hand in hand.

What we're trying to do here is stimulate the economic growth of these rural communities, have them take advantage of the natural resources that they have. Certainly White Pine County has that natural resource for tourism which would increase the tourism base and provide a larger base for small businesses. It would support that tourism trade by having the park here.

Senator HECHT. Marshall, you didn't discuss the park. Do you favor the park bill with the wilderness, or two separate bills?

Mr. COOPERSMITH. As far as whether they're one or two bills, neither organization voted on that. Both wanted the park. If it's more expedient to get it as a separate bill, I think that would be acceptable.

Senator HECHT. I just wondered, since you were representing the central committee.

Mr. COOPERSMITH. I'm vice chairman of that committee.

Senator HECHT. It was not brought up?

Mr. COOPERSMITH. It was not brought up to have it as a separate bill or together. It was just brought up whether we supported the national park.

Senator HECHT. Time constraints are on all of us, and Barbara is going to have to leave us. She's got a couple of statements she wants to bring up before she leaves.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you very much, Senator.

I think for the record it's important that all of us stop and realize that we in Congress are not the ones who want a bill. We've been mandated by the law to come up with a wilderness bill in every State of the Union, and our State is the only one that had not even introduced a bill up until last year. There are a couple of States that are still trying to solve the problem because there are a lot of conflicts, but one of the reasons that we are here is that if we do not finally come up with a wilderness bill of some kind, whatever it is, there are 3 million acres that are tied up in land now that are being held just until we come up with some conclusions on this. It's a very important thing that we do come up with some kind of a bill that will deal with the issues of wilderness. And whether we get into the national park issue or not isn't the point. It is important that we work with all the people here and try to come up with a wilderness bill that is going to make everybody as happy as they can be.

And we think this is a compromise, the bill that we have come up with, and I thank you all.

Senator HECHT. Don't leave yet. I want to bring up one point.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. OK. I have to go.

Senator HECHT. In conjunction with what Barbara said about all States, I think this will be brought out for the record. Congressman Seiberling of the House has been pushing so much wilderness for our State. About his own State, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

has 77 acres of wilderness in the State of Ohio established in 1975 inside the West Sister National Wildlife Refuge.

Congressman Seiberling's bill would create 18,000 times that amount in Nevada, so I think that should be brought out for the record, too.

Do you have anything?

Mr. COOPERSMITH. Senator Hecht, one thing that was not voted on, as far as either one of these letters I read, is the actual size of the national park.

I realize the 137,000 acres is proposed, national forest area and the South Snake Range.

A compromise as to the size of the park would be acceptable, I think, to everybody. Even if it was reduced so it was more reasonable so the mining interests and the ranching interests were protected more fairly, if it could be protected at that size so the ranchers and miners would not have to worry about the inflation of the land like we have inflation of the dollar, or deflation.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

In the interest of time, we're going to have to move right along.

Panel No. 11. Mike Bourn, Ed Ylst, Sharon Taylor, Norman Sharp, Gerald Sharp, and Jim Cazier, Mike Bourn.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL R. BOURN, PROJECT COORDINATOR, WHITE PINE POWER PROJECT

Mr. BOURN. I am the project coordinator for the White Pine power project, and I'm here to speak today on behalf of our project coordination office and the development manager of the project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

I'm not here to express support for or opposition against the creation of a national park at Mount Wheeler or wilderness areas in or near White Pine County. Rather, it is my purpose to bring to your attention the possibilities of future conflicts between the park and wilderness proposals and the White Pine power project and to ask that you consider protecting against such future conflicts.

Our primary concerns regarding the possibilities of the creation of integral vista buffer zones around national parks and/or wilderness areas, the potential for upgrading national parks or wilderness areas from class 2 to class 1, and regional haze regulations that may promulgate IPEA class 1 areas.

The legislation in the House prohibits the establishment of integral vista buffer zones around Nevada wilderness areas. We would like to see that prohibition retained and extended to the proposed Great Basin National Park if you decide to create such a park.

We also request the legislation contain a prohibition against upgrading class 2 areas created by the legislation to class 1 without an act of Congress upon the recommendation of the Governor. That also would take care of our concern our reasonable haze standards since those will apply only to class 1 areas.

Thank you for coming to Ely to receive the comments of people who will be most affected by some of the proposals you have before you.

I have provided more detailed written comments and request that they be made part of the record. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bourn follows:]

PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

AND USFS WILDERNESS AREAS

statement by

Michael R. Bourn

Project Coordinator

White Pine Power Project

February 10, 1986

Ely, Nevada

Let me begin by stating that the purpose of these remarks is not to present a position either in favor of or in opposition to the creation of a national park at Mt. Wheeler or wilderness areas in any of the proposed locations in or near White Pine County but to bring to your attention potential areas of conflict between the proposals and the White Pine Power Project. I am speaking today on behalf of the County's project coordination office for the White Pine Power Project and the Development Manager of the project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The Department is also the Devlopment Manager for the Intermountain Power Project now under construction near Delta, Utah.

For the record, let me first briefly describe the White Pine Power Project and review its status.

The WPPP is a 1,500 MW coal-fueled, steam-electric generating facility to be located approximately 48 miles north of Ely, Nevada. The project consists of power

generating, power transmission, water supply and coal transportation systems. The development work, which began in late 1978, will continue until the end of 1987. The project schedule calls for construction to start in the 1987-89 time-frame, dependent upon the prospective project participants' need for energy in the 1993-94 time-frame.

White Pine County, along with Nevada State and Congressional officials, has supported this project from the outset. The potential benefits of having such a project include economic revival of the County, improved public facilities and reversal of the out-migration trend that reduced the County's population by twenty percent or more between 1970 and 1980.

The development work, which to date has cost potential project participants approximately fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000) and to which a total of twenty-two million dollars ($22,000,000) has been committed, has been essentially completed. The National Environmental Policy Act environmental process for the project has been completed and the Record of Decision approving the project was issued on March 26, 1985. Other major permits required for the project, including air and water quality and appropriation of a water supply, also have been obtained. For all intents and purposes, the project is ready to

proceed to construction.

The project will cost over three billion dollars ($3,000,000,000) to construct and will employ over twenty-six hundred (2600) people at the peak of construction and over five hundred (500) once in operation. It is critical to the economic revival of White Pine County that the WPPP be completed.

The project's Development Manager does not oppose creating the park or any of the proposed wilderness areas providing they do not affect the viability of either the proposed WPPP generating plant or the Intermountain Power Project under construction in Delta, Utah. The approved site for the WPPP is in north Steptoe Valley approximately sixty (60) miles to the northwest of the proposed park and in much closer proximity to the proposed Shell Peaks Wilderness Area, and the IPP generating plant is under construction approximately ninety (90) miles to the east of the proposed park.

A serious area of potential conflict currently is the issue of future potential for the establishment of an integral vista buffer zone around the proposed park or any of the wilderness areas. Unquestionably, there is no intention to take such action under the present administration in Washington and little appetite in Congress for such buffer zones. However, this concept was

well on its way to implementation in the last year of the Carter administration. There is real concern that this concept could gain more widespread support once again at some future time. Just the possibility of that occuring could cast a gray cloud over the White Pine Power Project in the minds of our utility participants. The generating station site is only sixty miles from the boundary of the proposed park. One can see easily more than a hundred miles from Wheeler Peak.

Fortunately, there is a ready solution to this problem. If language prohibiting such action were placed in the national park section of the legislation, everyone's fears concerning this issue could be put to rest. There already is such prohibitive language in the wilderness section of the present legislation, therefore, there shouldn't be opposition to the same language in the national park authorization. Without such language I believe our utility participants will look upon the White Pine Power Project less favorably tomorrow than today vis-a'-vis other opportunities open to them to acquire new generating resources.

Another serious concern regards the air quality class of the proposed park and the area around it. I understand the current proposal to be one for a class II area. That would not impede development in the surrounding area or

create more stringent air quality standards. However, once again, there are concerns about the future and the views of future federal administrations, as well as concern about the fears that might arise in the minds of our utility participants about the possibility of the park being upgraded to a class I area in the future. Enormous costs can be added to the original expense of constructing a generating plant at a later time by such action followed by requirements to retrofit already operating facilities. If the park were to be created as a class I area or upgraded to that level before construction on the WPPP commences the project would have to engage in further air quality impact evaluations and incur unanticipated delay. That could endanger the viability of the project in White Pine County. Great comfort could be provided to all concerned by inserting some language in the authorizing legislation that would prohibit upgrading at some future date.

Similar language regarding wilderness areas created by the bill would also provide great comfort but there is less concern over the upgrading of the wilderness areas than over the potential for upgrading the air quality class of the national park.

To elaborate on this area further, a critical part of the concern over class I designation is the possibility that the EPA will promulgate regional haze regulations for

class I areas that will either exceed the available technology to meet regional haze standards or adversely impact the economic viability of the WPPP. It is anticipated that the project will have to renew its air quality permits prior to commencing construction. It is currently designed using the best available control technology (BACT) as required in the project's PSD air quality permits but the renewal of the permits could subject the project to regional haze standards if the park were established as a class I area and if the EPA establishes such haze regulations in the 1985-89 time-frame. The project could also fall under such haze regulations even if the park were upgraded at a later time to a class I area.

I don't mean to belabor this point about air quality but there is a great need to know that the standards under which a project of this sort is licensed will be the same standards under which it can be constructed and operated. Without that assurance, to the degree it is within the power of Congress to provide it, utilities are going to look elsewhere for new generating resources. Three billion dollars is too much to risk on a chancy situation particularly in the current regulatory climate for utility cost recovery.

The final area of potential conflict involves the

Spring Valley generating station site which is an alternate to the preferred site in north Steptoe Valley. This is not a particularly serious problem since the power project is approved for construction at the north Steptoe Valley site. However, for the record it is important to realize that if a national park is created at Mt. Wheeler this site is ro longer viable due to its location just over five miles from the proposed park's western boundary. It is very unlikely that it will be necessary to move the generating station to one of the alternate sites now that a site has been approved in the BLM's record of decision on the environmental impact statement. It should also be understood that the anticipation that the viability of the Spring Valley site would be jeopardized is not as a result of any sort of anticipated buffer zone action by federal agencies. The opposition to ccnstructing a power generating facility in such close proximity to a national park would come from environmental and preservationist organizations desiring to protect a valuable scenic resource. The pressure from such organizations certainly would be substantial and would preclude licensing of that site.

Again, however, I want to emphasize that neither I nor the development manager of the project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, sees this conflict as a

serious problem at this juncture because another site already has been approved for construction of the generating station.

Preliminary assessment based on the data gathered for the project's air quality permit application indicate that the air quality and plume impacts from the generating facility at the North Steptoe site on the proposed park would be minimal. The creation of the park under current regulations, as a class II area and with some guarantee of no buffer zones and no future upgrading to a class I area should not affect the plans of the WPPP to construct the generating facility at the approved north Steptoe Valley site. Action to create the park on some other basis could require the project to conduct additional studies and engage in further monitoring and data-gathering thereby increasing the development costs and resulting in delay. This could result in the project being fatally flawed and bring about its demise. Besides the effect this would have on White Pine County, it would clearly be inequitable to the fourteen (14) utilities who have invested several years and millions of dollars to bring the project to this point.

The protective language suggested in these remarks will not indemnify for all time the County and the White Pine Power Project against more restrictive future action. Certainly, a future Congress could reverse the action of

the present one. But no administrator could take such action within his own authority. It would reserve to Congress the priviledge of making changes. Convincing Congress to implement such change would be more difficult than convincing a director of the National Park system or a Secretary of the Interior. The staff of the development manager for the project and I are available to assist in drafting language that will afford the protection discussed herein and request that we be afforded an opportunity to provide that assistance.

Thank you for traveling so far to hear the views of those who will be most affected by the creation of a Great Basin National Park at Mt. Wheeler and Wilderness Areas on Forest Service land in and near White Pine County.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. They will be.
Ed Ylst.

STATEMENT OF ED YLST, ALAMO, NV

Mr. YLST. Thank you. It's a privilege to be here.

There's not enough time to cover the points adequately. I've been firmly informed I only have 3 minutes. I protest this. Many other people have many more things to say but were not allowed to say them publicly, and I register a protest on behalf of them.

Basically the Federal Government in the 1920's appealed to the State of Nevada for the State of Nevada to control its own lands. The State said it couldn't afford it. The Federal Government, in its infinite wisdom, created the Taylor Act in the 1930's. As multiuse land disappears and industry fades away, we the people suffer the hardships as ranches, farms, and mines close all around us.

Investment dollars are frightened away by the pandora's box of wilderness proposals, illegal land acquisition by the Air Force, increasing land restrictions and inadequate land management by the Federal Government. New businesses are discouraged by endless paper shuffling and required approvals from officialdom that arrives a day late and a dollar short.

We the people of Nevada can no longer afford the loss of our two most valuable and unrecognized natural resources rapidly dwindling to a new low. They are: talented people and investment money. Both are left begging in the street to be used before being chased to other States. I'm sure the Governor of Nevada does not approve.

The forestry department takes some instruction from Sacramento and, as a result, the biggest fire hazard ever witnessed in Nevada exists in our forests today. The undergrowth and overgrowth is so thick it is impossible and impassable.

Adequate grazing is not permitted, roads are hazardous to travel, and new roads are denied.

And I have to skip over many other points.

Forest rangers aren't there during weekends, and who is managing the forests and who is not allowing proper management of the forestry department.

The basic concept of proposed wilderness areas is the epitimized expression of the forestry department's inability to manage the forest. Or, more simply, they may not want to or need to do their jobs.

Every healthy forest requires a proper maintenance schedule. It's not being adhered to

More importantly, wilderness establishes permanently an open door policy for refugees and fugitives from Oregon and California suffering from the crackdown by united law enforcement agencies attempting total irradication of all pot-growing activities.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize.

Mr. YLST. Fine.

Senator HECHT. You're at the end.

Mr. YLST. There is a new organization that's called Nevada Freedom Fighters and let's have the State of Nevada request the return

of its lands. I was shocked to learn that the State of Nevada is an applicant to its own land.

And, Ely, you can have all the money you want if you have those BLM and forestry department fees in your pocket.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ylst follows:]

February 10, 1986

Federal Management of Nevada Land

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Ed Ylst and I speak for the benefit of all Nevada citizens. In the 1920's the federal government appealed to the State of Nevada and other states to manage their respective lands themselves. The State of Nevada said "it coudn't afford to do so." As a result the federal government in its infinite wisdom created the Taylor Act in the 1930's.

Now as multi-use land disappears and industry fades away, we the people suffer the hardships as ranches, farms, and mines close all around us.

Investment dollars are frightened away by the Pandora's Box of wilderness proposals , illegal land aquisition by the airforce, increasing land restrictions and inadequate land management by the federal government. New businesses are discouraged by endless paper shuffling and required approvals from officialdom that arrives a day late and a dollar short.

We the people of Nevada can no longer afford the lass of our two most valuable and unrecognized natural resources rapidly dwindling to a new low. They are; talanted people and investment money. Both are left begging in the street to be used before being chased to other states. I am sure the Governor of Nevada does not approve!

By regulation, not law, the Forestry Department located in Sacramento California dictates forestry policy in the State of Nevada resulting in the following;

1. The biggest fire hazard ever witnessed in Nevada. The undergrowth/overgrowth is so thick it is impossible and impassable! Proper adequate; grazing, dead wood removal, and tree thinning has not been permitted! A healthy forest requires maintenance program which Nevada is not permitted to perform.
2. Roads are hazardous to travel and new roads are denied!
3. One Forestry Departments report states "overgrazing has taken place because the plants and shrubs appear to be rounded." Which plants or shrubs grow non-round?
4. After generations of successful cattle grazing/raising forestry officials and their reports tell ranchers the hills are too steep for cattle grazing. Of those cattle examined not one leg appears shorter than another. I challange anyone to address these same cattle

face to face, on any hill in question, informing them that they don;t have the ability to graze there.

5. Where are the forest rangers during the weekeneds? THESE ARE the greatest traffic and fire hazard periods of any forest? Who permits this flagrant non-management on an ongoing basis?

6. The basic concept of "proposed wilderness areas" is the epitimized expression of the Forestry Department's inability to manage the forest. Or, more simply they may not want to do their job.

7. Wilderness promotes unemployment, prevents new industry, kills existing businesses, interferes grossly with multiple use rights firmly established with the blood sweat and tears by many generations of hard working people. (NOT REPRESENT) But most importantly, wilderness establishes permanently an open door policy for refugees and fugitives from Oregon and California suffering from the crackdown by united law enforcement agencies attempting total eradication of all pot growing activities. Why alledgedly does the Northern California based Sierra Club, the northern California directed Forestry Dept SUPPORT 1.4 million acres of wilderness in this state? Who is behind a proposal for half this amount? A proposal of one tenth this amount is certainly less damaging or compromising to say the the least. (DOES) One ~~would~~ tend to raise less eyebrows? Why risk all?

8. Machine gun nests are rumored to exist in this state and Utah in armed camps in remote areas for the express purpose of protecting their pot crops. I wouldn't want to be in the shoes of an innocent hiker who happened to stumble into such a camp. Would you? More roads, easy access, and the mere presence of more people can eliminate this problem once and for all.

9. The State of Nevada with its county governments has already and is continuing to zone properly land as open space conservation in sufficient amounts to accommodate hikers and backpackers.

10. Wild horses run rampant on Blm/Forestry land destroying watering and grazing rights essential to the survival of wildlife and the cattle industry in this state! Horse adoption procedures and fees are too elaborate, time consuming, costly and ineffective to solve this night-mare situation.

11. The United States Air Force has taken by armed force in one case alone, over 92,000 acres of Nevada land without the consent of Congress. Congressional approval is mandated by law for any land aquisition exceeding 5,000 acres! What about this Senator? Governor?

12. I was shocked to learn that the Great State of Nevada is an applicant to its own land! State officials what are you allowing?
13. The immediate smooth transition of BLM/Forestry land control be ~~xxxx~~ released into the State of Nevada Department of Agriculture control is hearby formally requested. The good people from the BLM/Forestry departments could be employed by the State of Nevada and thus mandated to be more effective, productive and more efficient, unhampered by special interest outsiders. WE DEMAND LOCAL CONTROL OF OUR LANDS AND OUR LIVES! Our extemely competent Department of Agriculture funded by the entire amount of BLM/Forestry Department fees collected in the State of Nevada will be enabled to do a much better job of law enforcement and multi-use land management than currently exists. I Steve Mahoney and those he would recomend would be succesful to this end.
14. If desired or warranted the State of Nevada could solicit adjudication before an international court of law against the Federal Government of the United States for the crime of industrial and economic genocide of Nevada and/or its citizens.
15. Nevada Freedom Fighters a new organization, demands the right answers and responsible actions of State government by demanding the State of Nevada to request by Constitutional right the release of all BLM/Forestry control within the borders of the State of Nevada to the State of Nevada. Under the Constitution of the United States of America, the Federal Government retains only the rights not demanded by the states.
16. ~~xxxx~~ The people of this state have the right to life liberty and the pursuite of happiness, and our livelihoods are not to be tampered with by alledged California imported pot sponsoring organizations such as the alledged Sierra Club or alledged Sacramento Bureaucrats posing as alledged incompetant forest management. ARE THEY DUPED?
17. To save Nevada tonight! Nevada Freedom Fighters Unite!
Those of you who desire to provide contributions or talent to this event may see me at the close of this session.

Thank you for your time.
Thankyou for listening.

Senator HECHT. Your time is up. Thank you. Your full statement will be in the record.

Norman Sharp.

STATEMENT OF NORMAN SHARP, ELY, NV

Mr. NORMAN SHARP. I'm Norman Sharp, third generation rancher in Nevada.

Less than 3 percent of American people can or do use the wilderness area.

It seems far more practical to worry about the future generation living comfortably in a relatively free lifestyle like our generation has enjoyed than to preserve lands for future generations to observe.

Livestock grazing which permits oil and mining are the only segments that pay the bills to support Government lands. Livestock grazing pays double, as they pay grazing fees and taxes for the use of these public lands.

As ranchers, we require goods and services which strengthen and support other segments of the community.

Wilderness contributes nothing.

At a time when the Government should be cutting expenses, no area should ever be considered as a wilderness area. These proposed sites include some of Nevada's most desirable multiple-use land—grazing, recreational areas. These areas are now enjoyed by family oriented people. Picnickers, skiers, elderly citizens will be hampered.

The multiple-use concept is the only practical approach to land management.

Nevada is a State composed of Federal lands. We do not need wilderness. We need a tax base generating agriculture, mining, livestock grazing, recreational use.

We want our State to be treated so as to develop and expand to its fullest potential.

Livestock grazing for the last 100 years has not damaged the countryside. I'm sure it's not going to damage the countryside for the next 100 years.

Any wilderness bills considered should guarantee payment and reimbursement for all losses caused to individuals by its creation. These payments should cover loss of grazing privileges, property damage, damage to future expansion due to loss of electrical power construction right-of-way, et cetera.

In my case, the Forest Service has cheated me out of power to my mountain property just by declaring it a wilderness study area.

I am very opposed to the creation of wilderness areas and parks in the State of Nevada. However, I do support your bill. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Gerald Sharp.

STATEMENT OF GERALD SHARP, TONOPAH, NV

Mr. GERALD SHARP. Thank you for the opportunity of testifying at the hearing.

I'm Gerald Sharp from Railroad Valley, and I'm not opposed to wilderness such as protecting the areas that need protection, but in our own area we have a rough mountain that hasn't changed in

the last 100 years, and it's not going to change that much in the next 100.

But I'm opposed to the wilderness due to the fact that if we're in a wilderness study area, that gave us a pretty good insight as to what it will be if it is a wilderness. Originally we got power from the co-op but, due to the inflation, we were the last one to get power down there, then they come with this wilderness area and put too much restrictions on the power, and in that case I've been damaged to at least a hundred thousand dollars. I recognize the need for compromise, and I'd be willing to support your wilderness bill, but I would respectfully request a little consideration for losses that's been incurred by the wilderness area.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Your name is not printed correctly on here. I'll just call you Jim.

STATEMENT OF JIM CAZIER, ELY, NV

Mr. CAZIER. Jim; that will do here.

First of all, before I even start, Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich, I will publicly apologize right now for raising my voice. I'm sorry. But my doctor hasn't beat my blood pressure down, but he'll get it down and everything is going to be OK.

Everyone in White Pine County has an interest in the outcome of the Great Basin National Park issue, whether or not it becomes a park, and in Government control of public lands—and I'm talking about city; county; State: Federal, including the BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Game. I realize that the public, or the country in general, needs control but the pendulum is swinging too far the other way.

I think if the proposed park does become a reality, the next step will be ultimately the 826,000 acres they want in that wilderness bill could be attached, coming to a million acres, round about, including all the Shell Range, North and South Spring Valley, part of Snake Valley, including Baker, NV.

These Government agencies I've spoken about control 95 percent of the State of Nevada. The park proposal would be a step toward 96 percent. We're getting too close to a hundred.

Two of my own reasons for not wanting the park and wilderness bill are my ranches in North Spring Valley and Placer Claim and Osceola Mining District, but there are many more. Just to name a few, hunting and fishing, prospecting and going up to Mt. Washington. I've been going up there for the last 30 years. These would be stopped or restricted very badly.

The very final—probably a long way down the road—I'll be losing my ranch in the Placer Claim if the wilderness bill is enacted.

I'm sure pleased to say that nearly everyone in this county is involved in the issue at hand in one way or another.

At the first meeting involving the park, probably 300 people attended and only one individual spoke for the proposed park. At the second meeting, this one went for the proposed park, approximately 125 people attended, at this meeting two gentlemen spoke about 1 hour and 20 minutes about the advantages of having the South Range as a park. Many people spoke against the proposed park and

Mr. George Pollock, a longtime resident of the area, asked for everyone opposed to the proposed park to stand, and almost everyone there did.

Now, how much time do I have?

Senator HECHT. You've got about a minute.

Mr. CAZIER. I don't even know where to begin.

It involves a lot of water rights and BLM rights, and a lot of people are involved. Currently they are trying to take them away the BLM permits.

Cows are stepping on the ducks' nests, and it goes on and on and on, and every year they're after just a little bit more, a little bit more, and we haven't got much more.

I've taken enough time. I'm hungry, and I bet you are, too. Let's go eat lunch.

Senator HECHT. We have some more panels, and we have to get in our van and off to Elko.

Thank you all very much.

Panel No. 12. Sunny Martin, Adelle Rattazzi, Don Reed, Ed Spear, Jack Wood, Carolyn Lowman.

What is your name, sir?

Mr. REED. I'm Don Reed.

Senator HECHT. Well, we'll start with you.

STATEMENT OF DON REED, ELY, NV

Mr. REED. OK.

I believe that White Pine County has the most beautiful scenery in the whole State of Nevada. I believe that it should be enjoyed by as many people as possible. Thus, I would not be in favor of a great part of this land being designated as wilderness area for only a few to enjoy, those who like to backpack and are physically able to do so, but I would favor a national park where so many can and will enjoy the beauty and the wonders of this great scenic area.

I feel it would be a great benefit to the majority of White Pine County.

As we all know, the closing of Kennecott Copper in White Pine County had a very bad effect on the whole county, not only through the loss of jobs at Kennecott but through the loss of services and loss of jobs in supporting businesses.

Service had to be curtailed and inventories had to be cut back. At the time of Kennecott's closing, some areas in the county were not as adversely affected because of their distance from Magill, Ruth and Ely, but even they have since felt the effects because now they have to travel to other areas, often out of State, for things they were formerly provided in White Pine County.

So the majority of the people have suffered from the loss of their employer, I believe that bringing the national park in would help the area, so I'm all for it.

It is a known fact that tourism in Nevada is Nevada's greatest industry, and we should all do what we can to attract the tourist business. Other parts of the State are benefiting from this industry, and so should we. The tourist industry is a clean, nonpolluting industry that will not affect the environment.

It will be protecting it for our future generations.

In addition to attracting the tourist business, the national park will create jobs for the care and maintenance of the park and for the services needed in the community to take care of peak employees and tourists.

I believe that if the park becomes a reality, it would do much for the good and betterment of all the people in the community in which we live.

If I thought the park would not be a benefit for the majority of the population, I would be against it, but it is my sincere feeling that it would be a step ahead for White Pine County.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I'll ask you the same question. Do you want the park bill as part of the wilderness, or does it make any difference?

Mr. REED. I think whatever would expedite the park would be the best way to go.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Panel No. 13. Dr. Waite, Mark Baxter, Ross Bryner, John Neron, James Dean.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Dr. WAITE. Friends, it's good to be here. My mother taught school in Ely, and my father was in mining up at Tescarora, and I've been raised part of my life in Nevada, and I can't think of a better place to die. And I didn't mean to almost die this morning, but you never know.

What I'd like to do, I have a 16-page handout of which everyone here is welcome to have a copy.

I'm very interested in multiple use, and I think multiple use is certainly the backbone of this county, and I think it could exist with the National Park because I've seen it exist in other parts of the Nation, not only Utah but in Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and California.

I've worked out here 20 years now on the park proposal, and I've listed just briefly some multiple use areas, like grazing, which can be allowed. In terms of mining, if there is good mineral mining deposits here in the county, in the Snake Range, at least they should be excluded from the park boundary. The last active mining was in World War II. They did have two mines on Highland Ridge during the Korean war and those areas could be left out.

My proposed park would leave out Highland Ridge. I would not make a park as big as 174,000 acres. I think we can accomplish the same purpose with a smaller version.

I would like to see the park included in Senator's Hecht's Senate bill 722.

Forestry—there's no commercial forestry on the range. Fishing is allowed. The use of water is allowed. Private land can be retained. As for hunting, there are six other ranges in Nevada that can be used, and there could also be a late season hunt on Highland Ridge. Of course, the North Snake Range is always open.

I'm so interested in White Pine County in Nevada that I am doing two studies right now. I'm not going to bore you will all that, but you're welcome to have copies of those if you'd like them.

Basically, the idea for a national park is education, protection, expansion of the outdoor recreation program for Nevada. A wider variety of people and cultures would come in. Turn the scenery into money, and turn the economy of White Pine County around. We've lost 2,000 people in just the past year, and that is a tremendous loss for one county to sustain.

I think since the last bills were passed in 1962 in the Senate, we've lost over $2 billion by not having a national park in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Doctor, your entire statement will be in the record, but your time is up, so I'm going to ask you go give one last sentence.

Dr. WAITE. OK, just quickly.

At the very end of my brochure, I have what I call the silver circle, and I put it next to the golden circle in Utah that did create Canyonlands, and then I put the silver circle on the front here to show you how we could tie the whole recretional story of Nevada into this one national park.

Just finally as an added tribute to the astronauts who died on January 28, we have a lot of unamed peaks in the Snake Range, and there are seven that form a star-shaped pattern around Mt. Washington and Lincoln Peak, and I would like to propose that we name those peaks in honor of the astronauts who died and let that be a living memory for Nevada and the nation of those people who are pioneers in space.

Thank you so much.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Waite follows:]

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84112
801-581-8218

February 27, 1979

The Honorable Paul Laxalt
United States Senate
322 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Laxalt:

Thank you for your letter of February 22. It was a pleasure to hear from you and to meet you at the Great Salt Lake-National Park Hearings in Senate Hill #232, Monday, February 26, briefly.

I have enclosed a new copy of the syllabus given to members of the Congressional Field Trip at the Mt. Wheeler, which will be more appropriate for publication in the Congressional Record. Page one and page two were revised and retyped to more accurately portray how the proposed Great Basin National Park would effect the present land use status of the Southern Snake Range. I have also enclosed a revised copy of the Silver Circle Map - a concept that will be of great economic benefit to Nevada.

I was delayed in mailing out copies of my doctoral dissertation to members of Nevada's Congressional Delegation because the maps and photography did not match the standard of the original work. Therefore, I have advised U.C.L.A. to send my original copy to University Microfilms in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to reproduce the finest quality publication possible. The Great Basin National Park study will arrive in your office in approximately two weeks.

In closing Senator Laxalt, thank you for your kind work, and may I wish you the very best in your Senatorial endeavours.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Robert Starr Waite

Robert Starr Waite

RSW:wm

Enclosures

NEVADA

THE SILVER CIRCLE

DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE

GREAT BASIN

GEOLOGY - BIOLOGY - ANTHROPOLOGY - HISTORY

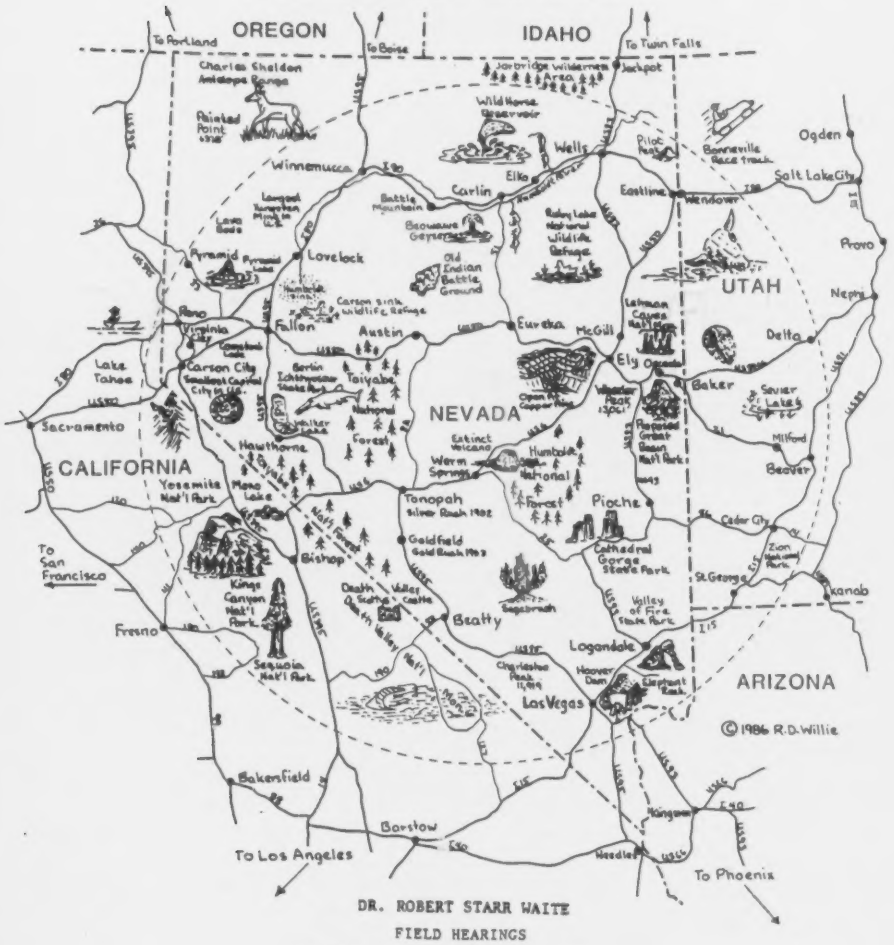
PROPOSED

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEVADA

THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

NEVADA
THE SILVER CIRCLE



DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE

FIELD HEARINGS

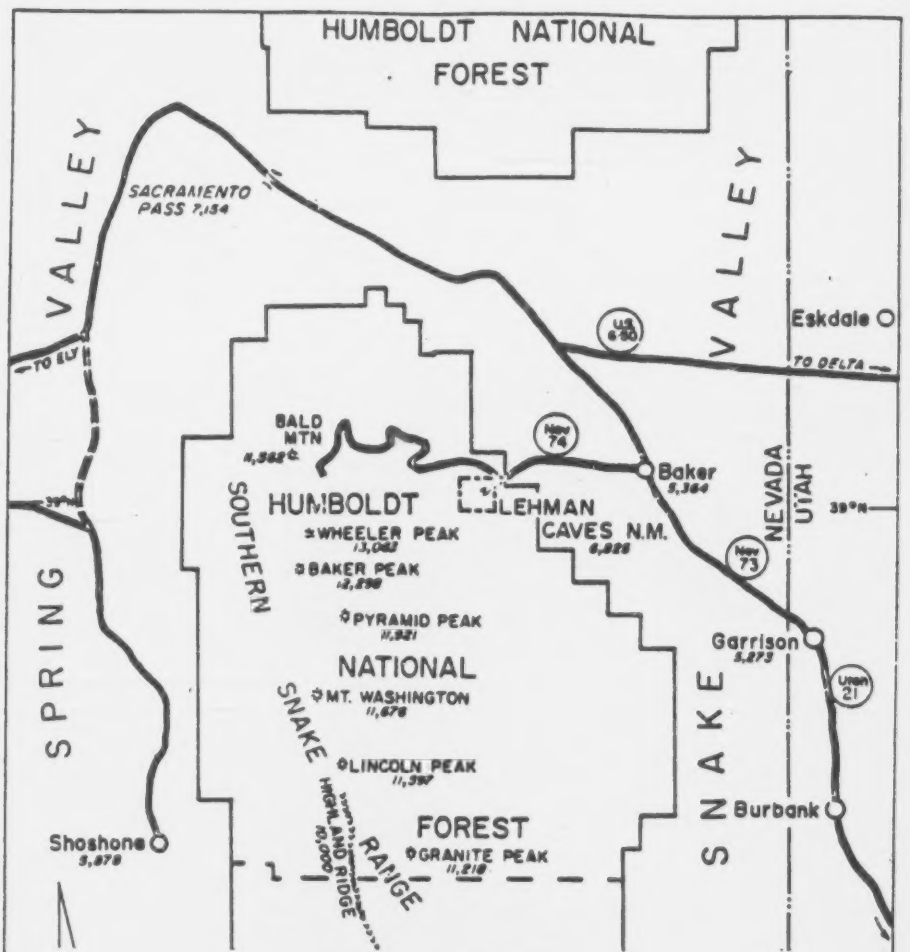
NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL S. 722

SENATOR PAUL LAXALT AND SENATOR CHIC HECHT

ELY, NEVADA

FEBRUARY 10, 1986

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



"A NATION REMEMBERS"

One of the most important aspects of the proposed Great Basin National Park southeast of Ely, Nevada, involves the twentieth century Space Age. On Tuesday morning, January 28, 1986, one of the world's greatest tragedies occurred when seven Americans died aboard space shuttle Challenger, 74 seconds after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center. In memory of the six astronauts and delightful New Hampshire school teacher, I would like to propose that seven unnamed peaks in the Snake Range, adjacent to Mt. Washington and Lincoln Peak, be named in honor of these Americans. The seven peaks form a star-shaped pattern around Washington and Lincoln, our nation's two greatest presidents, which would be one of the greatest tributes we could pay to these space pioneers.

The Southern Snake Range, Nevada

THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

STATEMENT BY DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, TO SENATOR MALCOLM WALLOP, CHAIRMAN, AND SENATOR CHIC HECHT, MEMBER OF THE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATERS, PERTAINING TO SENATE BILL S. 722, THE "NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985," PREPARED BY SENATOR PAUL LAXALT AND SENATOR CHIC HECHT.

ELY HEARINGS
FEBRUARY 10, 1986

Dear Chairman Wallop, Senator Hecht and Members of the Committee:

I strongly recommend the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and strongly recommend the establishment of Wilderness Areas in Nevada, which should both be included in Senate Bill 722, to compliment and diversify Nevada's outdoor recreational program.

From 1966 to 1974 I conducted field work on the Southern Snake Range, to prepare the first comprehensive scientific study of the proposed Great Basin National Park. During this period the Snake Range was thoroughly studied in terms of its geology, biology, anthropology and history, to determine its qualifications for national park status. The doctoral dissertation is entitled: The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada, University of California, Los Angeles, California, 1974. The two volume study contains 1032 pages, 25 tables, 48 maps, 372 photographs, and 800 bibliographical references.

ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE-USE QUESTIONS

Creating a national park or wilderness area means sharing the land with America. Local people always resist. They feel they are loosing "their" land because of the historical heritage attached to their home area. However, if Americans were not willing to share with their fellow man there would be no Yellowstone, no Yosemite, no Glacier, no Zion, no Grand Canyon, no Mt. Rainier, or no Great Basin. With a little consideration on both sides, the national park and wilderness goals can be achieved. Both landuse types are important to the West, and will be looked upon with great pride by the people of Nevada and the other Great Basin states.

I. GRAZING will be allowed in the Great Basin National Park and the wilderness areas for the lifetime of the ranchers and their posterity as long as they wish. If more land is needed, the ground water resources in Snake Valley and Spring Valley would provide excellent irrigated pasture. The Northern Snake Range is open for grazing, and the Highland Ridge section could be omitted from the proposed national park if necessary. The five cattle allotments used for 571 cattle, and two sheep allotments used for 2,437 sheep (seven sheep are equivalent to one cow) does not put heavy grazing pressure on the Southern Snake Range. The six ranches using the proposed national park lands could use the dirt roads, but wilderness areas are roadless.

II. MINING is restricted under both national park and wilderness designations. The 479 mining claims are still valid on the Southern Snake Range, but according to the U.S. Forest Service the mineral potential is low. The last significant mining was during World War II, followed by two Highland Ridge mines operating during the Korean War - 30 years ago. Today the gold is gone, and the richest tungsten was mined out during the two world wars. However, there are mines in national parks; and if proven rich ore bodies are located, they should be left outside the boundaries of the park. Mining can also be accomplished by two tunnels, one in Pole Canyon, and one in Lincoln Canyon - whereby ore can be extracted without damaging the surface features of the park. Mining is a highly erratic, inconsistant industry, and it would possibly take another world war to activate any mineral development on the Snake Range because of the expense and inaccessibility of the ore. There is no oil or natural gas in the proposed Great Basin National Park.

III. FORESTRY is not permitted in national park and wilderness areas. There is no commercial timber industry on the Southern Snake Range because of the rugged nature of the terrain. The Northern Snake Range can still supply local timber, as well as other White Pine County ranges.

IV. FISHING is allowed in all national parks and wilderness areas. The Snake Range streams and lakes are regularly stocked with rainbow, brook and brown trout from the Spring Creek Fish Hatchery located on the eastern side of the range.

V. HUNTING is prohibited in national parks because it destroys one of the natural features people come to see. However, hunting is unrestricted on the Northern Snake, Schell Creek, Egan, Grant, Diamond and Pancake ranges, and a late season hunt can be conducted on Highland Ridge in December or January when deer migrate down slope and southward in winter. Bobcat hunting can also be conducted on Highland Ridge in winter when pelts have their best quality. Hunting is allowed in wilderness areas.

VI. PRIVATE LAND ownership will continue in perpetuity in the proposed Great Basin National Park, but it is not allowed in wilderness areas. The amount of privately owned land on the Southern Snake Range is small, and would cause no problem to either the administration or function of the national park.

VII. WATER use has no restrictions in either a national park or wilderness area. Livestock, irrigated farming, domestic and commercial uses all depend on it. Water is basic to life itself!

In summary, the proposed Great Basin National Park would be of far greater economic benefit to Nevada than a wilderness area designation on the Southern Snake Range. This will be illustrated by two studies I am currently preparing - one economic, the other recreational - both of which relate directly to the proposed Great Basin National Park and the new Silver Circle concept - a concept designed to show how the national park would act as the catalyst to generate millions of dollars into the Nevada economy by introducing America to the state's extensive outdoor recreational resources. This concept would serve as a model for future national parks, and would provide Nevada with one of the finest tourism programs in the West.

I. AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

As you know, millions of people pass through the lightly populated Great Basin each year, staying anywhere from a few hours to more than a week, buying food, lodging, gasoline and a variety of personal services. The provision of these requirements necessitates the labor of thousands of people, and the activities of hundreds of business firms, ranging from the corner grocery to large hotels. In order to measure the economic impact of these services, a study is needed to show the following criteria: (1) the value of the national park designation on tourism, (2) the need for new outdoor recreation areas, (3) estimated number of visitors to the proposed national park, (4) average length of stay of park visitors, (5) employment generated by tourism, (6) tourism as a source of income, (7) tourism as a source of expenditures, (8) relationship between tourism and Nevada's other leading industries, (9) origin of national park visitors, (10) patterns of transcontinental traffic flow, (11) proposed national park developments, (12) projection of future tourist income, (13) present use of the proposed national park lands, (14) solutions to present land use problems, and (15) Nevada population trends and characteristics.

II. THE SILVER CIRCLE ADVENTURE /or/ GREAT BASIN ADVENTURE

Many visitors that are new to the Great Basin are unaware of the wide variety of recreational opportunities the region offers. Therefore, it would be useful to show the relationship of the proposed national park to other Great Basin attractions by drawing a Silver Circle around the region's prime tourist areas. The circle would focus on the proposed Great Basin National Park, with the perimeter extending east-west from Sevier Lake to Reno, and north-south from the Jarbidge Wilderness Area to Las Vegas. The name Silver Circle was selected because Nevada is the "Silver State," a fitting title for one of the most prestigious parts of the West.

The Silver Circle offers a wide variety of possibilities, such as: (1) a small Silver Circle Map of tourism published for state-wide distribution, (2) a Nevada State Highway Map showing the Silver Circle superimposed on the Great Basin section of western America, (3) an enlarged color map entitled Silver Circle Adventure /or/ Great Basin Adventure, funded by federal, state and private organizations in the six Great Basin states, and (4) a book entitled Silver Circle Adventure /or/ Great Basin Adventure (xerox cover sample enclosed) could be published by K.C. Publications in Las Vegas. If the Great Basin National Park bills pass the House and Senate, a fifth publication would also be forthcoming - Great Basin: The Story Behind The Scenery - representing a new addition to the K.C. Publications series on America's national parks.

Like the Golden Circle concept, the Silver Circle would serve the same purpose by using the proposed Great Basin National Park as the centerpiece for the region. The park would be the key attraction - the big drawing card - the great unifier of the outdoor recreational program. With the aid of Silver Circle maps and books, a visitor could explore beyond the park boundaries and see a far wider variety of basin and

range attractions than normally expected. The bewildering array of - Scenic Areas, State Parks, Historical Sites, Wilderness Areas and Forest Service lands - would now take on new meaning, purpose and order in terms of telling the Great Basin story. Whether the Silver Circle is framed on the wall of a Great Basin National Park Visitor Center, or portrayed on a single sheet of paper, it would serve as a guide to the most important tourist areas located in this large physiographic region. The Silver Circle would include every county in the state, adding both strength and unity to Nevada's outdoor recreation program. The idea has worked for Utah and the Four Corners Area. The same idea will work for Nevada.

VALUES OF A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

There are many reasons why a national park would be a valuable asset to Nevada and the other Great Basin states, a few of which are listed below.

First, a need exists to interpret the Great Basin story, a unique landscape type found nowhere else in America. A park of this type would be regional in scope, designed to interpret the 200,000 square mile area between the Wasatch and Sierra Nevada. In this respect the park interpretative program would also be unique, affecting every county in the state, and every state in the region. Currently there are 8 national parks on the Colorado Plateau, 4 in the Rocky Mountains, 4 in the Cascade Mountains, 3 in the Sierra Nevada, 2 in the Coast Ranges of California and Washington, but none in the Great Basin.

Second, by the year 2,000 Nevada will become the nation's fastest growing state (according to U.S. News and World Report, September 19, 1983), with a population increase of 140% per annum. This phenomenon will require greater protection for the state's recreational lands, as well as the need for a unified program to develop Nevada's outdoor recreational resources for the benefit of the greatest number of people.

Third, since Nevada relies more heavily on tourism than any other state in the nation, with tourist dollars accounting for 80% of the annual income, the tourist package needs to be expanded and diversified by broadening the outdoor recreational program. A Great Basin National Park would add great strength to the outdoor program by providing a strong recreational attraction - a strong nucleus that would not only attract nation-wide attention, but would also serve to introduce visitors to all phases of Great Basin recreation.

Fourth, national parks attract a wider variety of people in both age and culture than other recreational areas. Park Service brochures are currently printed in five languages - English, German, French, Spanish and Japanese. As a result, some national parks have as high as one-third of their visitors originating from outside the United States. A national park would not only gain international recognition for Nevada, and the Great Basin, but it would be a permanent attraction destined to grow in popularity based on international tourism publicity. With the world-wide acclaim of Las Vegas and Reno, a national park the caliber of Wheeler Peak would be a natural addition to the Nevada tourism package.

Fifth, a new economic stimulus is needed for eastern Nevada that cannot be accomplished by any other recreational designation. Since national parks contain the world's finest natural scenery, the resulting impact would generate hundreds of thousands of new dollars annually into the local economy. It is an established fact that national park visitors spend more money than other recreational visitors, and in many cases spend a greater length of time at national park destinations. The National Park Service in its own right is also an important economic stimulus, contributing thousands of dollars annually for the protection, interpretation and development of national park lands.

Sixth, the aesthetic and psychological values of a national park are considered by many to be their most important contributions to the welfare of mankind. As John Muir eloquently stated in 1898: "Thousands of nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home." National parks are places where young and old can exercise their minds and their bodies. The parks offer solitude for reflection, with respite from the sights, the sounds, the smells, and the pressures of civilization. Here is the thrill of discovery and adventure. They are truly America's national treasures.

Of the more than 300 Great Basin mountain ranges, the Snake Range is exceptional because of its varied scenic, educational and recreational resources. As one visitor aptly commented:

"If Wheeler Peak and the contiguous alpine area had been located in any other part of the United States, it would have become a national park many years ago."

Since the Snake Range has such a wide variety of natural attractions, it is indeed admirably qualified for national park status. Wheeler Peak, above all other Great Basin mountains, truly captures the spirit, color and excitement of this magnificent region.

Thank you for the opportunity of addressing the Senate committee on the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

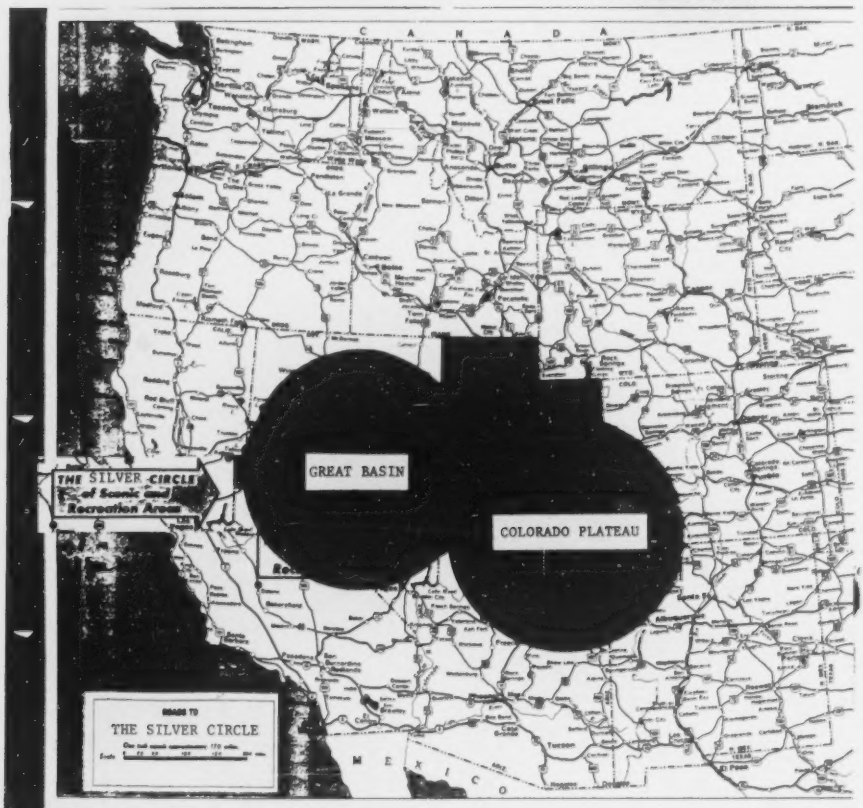
With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Robert Starr Waite

Robert Starr Waite
Geography

OFFICIAL
HIGHWAY
MAP OF



Best Of The West . . .

NEVADA

SILVER

GRAND CIRCLE

THE GRAND CIRCLE...an incredible adventure through the timeless western grandeur of 14 national parks and monuments, a vast national recreation area and a Navajo Tribal Park.

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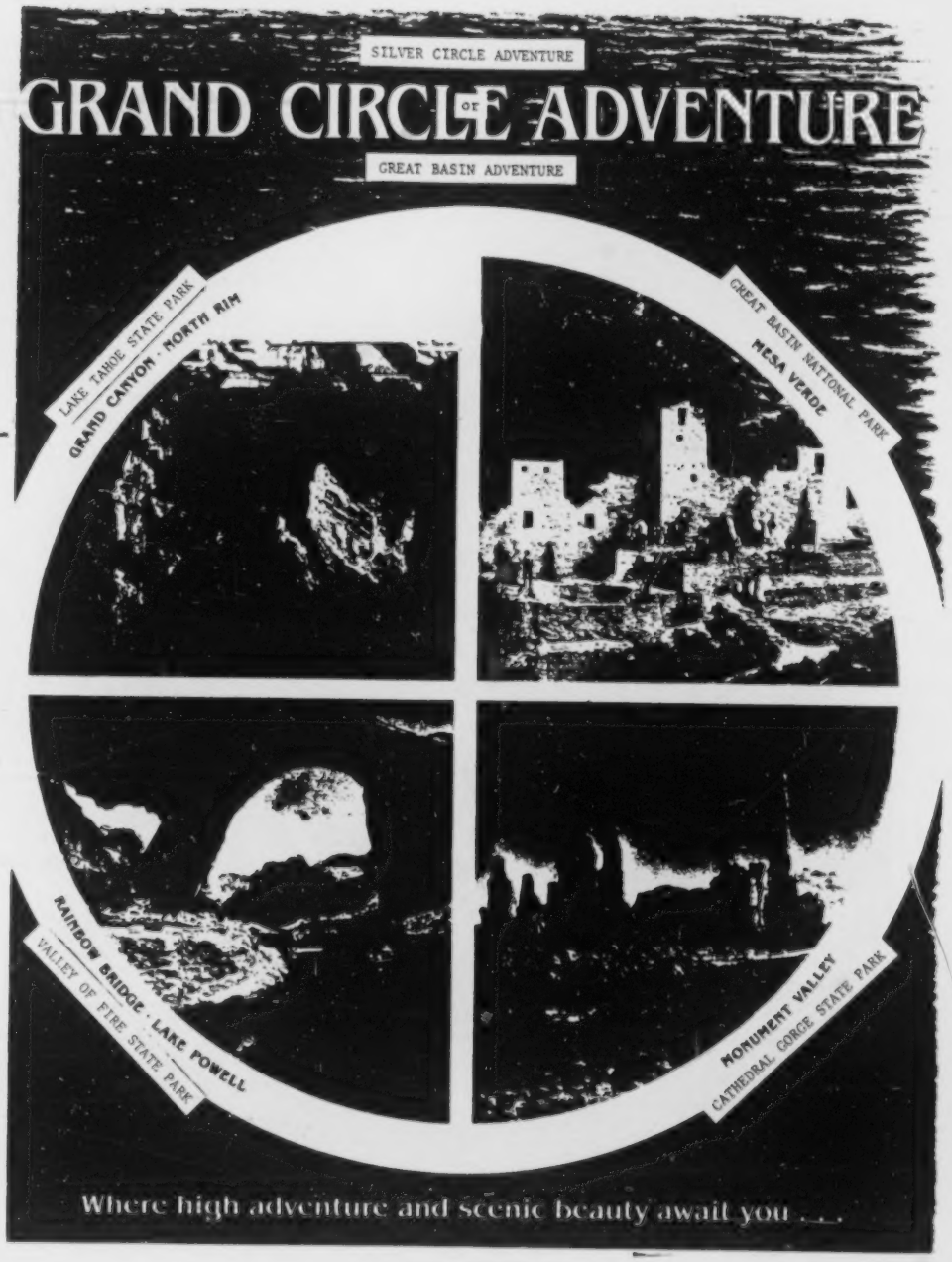
You'll visit the colorful Navajo at their hogans in the shadows of thousand foot high monoliths and mesas. You'll walk in the steps of the Anasazi in the great cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde and Canyon De Chelly.

There are visitor center museums and short easy overlook trails to state parks and historic sites. Even from the comfort of your car, the Grand Circle Adventure will present you with a kaleidoscope of natural spires, arches, roadside wildlife, riotous spring-color, alpine-meadow wild flowers, deep evergreen forests laced with golden Aspen in the fall, the saturated color of painted deserts and towering canyon walls ...enough to drive your camera crazy.

And it's all woven together into a delightful tapestry of friendly western hospitality blended with excellent dining and lodging.

What a wonderful way to make beautiful, lasting memories. The Grand Circle...where the pleasure of the grandest vacation adventure of all awaits you.

EXPLORE THE GREAT BASIN


SILVER CIRCLE ADVENTURE
GRAND CIRCLE OF ADVENTURE
GREAT BASIN ADVENTURE
LAKE TAHOE STATE PARK
GRAND CANYON - NORTH RIM
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
MESA VERDE
RAINBOW BRIDGE - LAKE POWELL
VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK
MONUMENT VALLEY
CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK
Where high adventure and scenic beauty await you ...

GREAT BASIN

The Salt Lake Tribune

Monday Morning—December 2, 1985

Section A Page 8

It's Time to Share 'The Secret,' Make Wheeler Peak a Park

If there's a heart of the Great Basin, it probably beats beneath 13,063-foot-tall Wheeler Peak. Located in the Snake Range just west of the Utah-Nevada border, this stunning peak and surrounding terrain offers an extraordinary example of the unique terrain, plants and animal life found in the vast region of basin and mountain ranges extending from the Wasatch Range to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

It's appropriate, therefore, that Wheeler Peak be considered for national park status. This area is clearly deserving of the special recognition and long-term protection offered to national parks.

Consider the attributes of this spectacular area. The proposed 174,000 acre national park encompasses a massive peak sculpted by glaciers during the last Ice Age. A remnant of that period remains in a small icefield, or glacieret, which persists in a shaded bowl just below the peak. Clinging to the rocks at timberline is a large stand of gnarled bristlecone pine trees, some of which are among the oldest living things in the world.

There are several small lakes in the Snake Range and some of its streams provide habitat for a rare species of fish left from an era when huge lakes covered much of western Utah and central Nevada. At the base of the range are Lehman Caves, an extensive series of caverns which already have been designated a national monument.

The U.S. Forest Service has done an excellent job of managing this area, building just enough roads and trails to provide easy visitor access without damaging the astonishing beauty of the Snake Range. The highest campground, located at an elevation of 10,000 feet in the shadow of Wheeler Peak, is one of the most beautiful in the region.

The only valid reason for opposing national park status for this area is selfishness. The Wheeler Peak area is largely undiscovered by tourists and it's understandable that those who already know and love the area will resist having their secret camping spot transformed into what would surely be a popular national park. But this beauty — beauty so great that some are reluctant to share it — will eventually draw crowds to the Snake Range whether its a national park or remains under Forest Service control. The best way to manage those crowds and ensure protection of the area will be with the strict preservation policies of the National Park Service.

Another reason for creating the park is money. A national park along the Utah-Nevada border would convince at least some tourists to pull off the freeway and wander the back roads of western Utah and eastern Nevada. The result would be an important economic boost for businesses in places such as Delta and Ely, Nev.

The Great Basin is a vast and wild portion of America that's pitifully underrepresented in the national park system. Creation of the proposed park in the Snake Range would remedy this situation and both highlight and protect the finest example of the Great Basin's terrain. The park idea is a good idea that deserves the support of Congress.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, and I appreciate the fact that you wanted to testify so much you stayed here to testify. I admire your sense of humor.

OK. let's go on. Mark Baxter.

STATEMENT OF MARK BAXTER, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Mr. BAXTER. My name is Mark Baxter, and I'm a biologist.

My family had been in ranching for about 150 years, and my father is an exploration geologist so I've hear the concerns of many people.

From my perspective as a biologist, the creation of a national park here in the Great Basin is long overdue. The protection that's offered by a national park would insure that representatives of the unique organisms found here would be available for the enjoyment of future generations. There are also immediate benefits.

The creation of a Great Basin National Park would accomplish two equally important goals. First of all, the park would be a showcase of typical features in the Great Basin, an area unique in the United States. And, second, the park would protect several unique features only within the confines of the park. The Great Basin contains many different kinds of plants and animals. The altitudinal, temperature, and rainfall differences in the various parts of the park mean that many different kinds of plants and animals may be found in a relatively small area. The proposed park would contain many animals that people enjoy looking at. Besides the esthetic value, there are also many other reasons for setting aside the park.

Probably foremost among the biological wonders of the park are the bristlecone pine that are among the oldest living organisms. It is estimated that some trees are over 5,000 years old. There are also endemic fishes in the waters within the park that are not found anywhere else in the world. Preserving these organisms has practical as well as esthetic benefits.

For example, the native trout in the area is adapted for conditions in the area and may represent a strain of fish that could live in areas not habitable by other types of trout. The isolated range of mountains in the Great Basin also exhibit a high degree of speciation in smaller vertebrates, insects and other plants and animals.

I feel that a Great Basin National Park would be of great benefit to ourselves and future generations. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Ross Bryner.

STATEMENT OF ROSS L. BRYNER, GEOGRAPHY STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Mr. BRYNER. Members of the panel, I'm a geography student, an undergraduate, and I'm not an economist, but I'm trying to tackle the subject of what the impact of tourism would be on the local economy; and so with not really being an expert, I've had to talk to a lot of people and get facts and data to make my statement.

White Pine County economy has been disastrous in the last decade, to say the least, and a national park certainly won't work a miracle and bring the economy back to what it was, but its impact would certainly help.

There is an estimate of 70,000 recreation visitor use days in the National Forest on the Snake Range and about 35,000 visitors to Lehman Caves National Monument each year. So roughly 100,000 enjoy the scenery, fishing, camping and hunting in the area. These visitors certainly contribute to the economy of the area. A national park would increase visitor numbers.

With such a great variety of things to see and do, a national park could be a great way to package these things together and give the area and the Great Basin the recognition it deserves.

Three major highways intersecting the area and two large metropolitan areas less than 300 miles away would put the proposed park in a good position. The more than a million residents of the Wasatch Front in and near Salt Lake City are about 210 miles from Baker, NV. That's closer than any of Utah's five national parks. Las Vegas is only 280 miles from Ely or Baker.

A spokesman from one of Utah's travel regions said, "The return on investment in travel promotion is in the area of 200 to 1."

There's many things that this county could do in Las Vegas and Salt Lake City, as far as travel promotions, to really get phenomenal results.

With Ely being only 60 miles from Baker, tell me another area in the United States that can offer people national park scenery and recreation by day and major nightlife and gambling by night. The possibilities for attracting people with weekend deals would just be fantastic.

Just to conclude, Utah's Capitol Reef National Park has about 358,000 visitors a year. It's in a remote area.

So if the national park comes through, there's maybe 250,000 visitors, so multiply that by $70 and there is $17½ million a year. Now, of course, these are just speculative figures, but they do show my point. This would really be quite an impact to the economy of the area.

In conclusion, I'm in favor of multiple use. My dad is a cattle rancher in central Utah and, as far as wilderness goes, I have my opinions on that, that they shouldn't take over the land here, but as far as the national park, I'm all for that. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bryner follows:]

THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: The impact of tourism from Nevada's first National Park.

By: Ross L. Bryner
February 7th. 1986

I am a geography student at the University of Utah, a junior working on my Bachelor degree. I am not an economist so its hard for me to really estimate what this National Park would do for the economy of the area, nevertheless I have talked to some people and obtained alot of data for help in preparing this statement.

White Pine County economy has been disasterous in the last decade. A National Park wont work a miracle and bring back the economy to what it was, but its impact would certainly help.

There is an estimate of 70,000 recreation visitor use days in the National Forest on the Snake Range and about 35,000 visitors to Lehman Caves National Monument each year.[1] So roughly 100,000 people enjoy the scenery, fishing, camping and hunting in the area. These visitors certainly contribute to the economy of the area. A National Park would increase visitor numbers.

With such a great variety of things to see and do, a National Park could be a way to package these things together and give the area and the Great Basin the recognition it deserves. This park would get the attention of many potential travelers.

Three major highways intersecting the area and two large metropolitan areas less than 300 miles away would put the park in a good position. The more than million residents of the Wasatch Front in and near Salt Lake City are only about 210 miles from Baker Nevada, closer than any of Utah's 5 National Parks. Las Vegas is only 280 miles from Ely or Baker.

A spokesman from one of Utah's travel regions said "The return on investment in travel promotion is in the area of 200 to 1."[2] He attended a travel show in Anaheim, California, earlier this year — a show that attracted 400,000 people in nine days. The advertising and promotions your county could do in Las Vegas and Salt Lake City could give phenomenal results.

With Ely being only 60 miles from Baker, what other area in the United States can offer visitors National Park recreation by day and major Nevada night life and gambling by night. The possibilities for attracting people with weekend deals to Ely and the National Park would be fantastic!

Now to make a few comparisons. Of Utah's five National Parks, Zion and Bryce Canyon are the most visited. Zion gets 1½ million visitors and Bryce about 3/4 of a million per year.[3] A more remote park however is Capitol Reef National Park in South Central Utah. It is sixty miles to the nearest large town of Richfield Utah (a little larger than Ely) and ten miles from Torrey Utah which is about the size of Baker. So in remoteness this park would compare to the proposed Great Basin Park.

Capitol Reef had just over 358,000 visitors in 1985.[4] An estimate said that the average visitor to Utah is estimated to spend $71 per day.[5] This includes transportation, lodging and miscellaneous costs. Lets say the proposed park would draw 250,000 visitors in its first year. Multiply that number by $70 and there is 17½ million dollars! Of course these are speculative figures but they do show my point.

I talked to a motel and restaurant owner in Torrey Utah and he said business is slow in the winter but from May to October he gets near full capacity in the motel and with the many people camping in the Park plus day visitors, his restaurant is a thriving business. Baker's accomodations would see a definite upswing. This man also told me that he does well with coach tours visiting the park. It has been estimated that the economic impact of a single tour bus and its occupants on an individual community has been estimated at$3,500 per night.[6]

I talked to the Superintendent of Capitol Reef and he said the park employs quite a number of local people in a variety of fulltime and seasonal jobs in the park. Many times when new park facilities need to be constructed such as buildings, bridges, roads, etc..., these jobs are bid out to local contractors to help boost the local economy. The superintendent also said many local civic and church volunteer groups enjoy doing various things in the park.

In conclusion I'd just like to say that I know a National Park won't please everyone, but the potential business and positive things that would come to White Pine County would far outweigh the negative.

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[1] Reconnaissance Survey: Great Basin Nevada and California, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1980.(also updated estimates by Dr. Robert S. Waite at the time of this writing)

[2] Alma Truman, Utah Travel Council.

[3] data from the Utah Travel Council. 1986

[4] " " " " " " "

[5] data from the National Park Service. 1986, State Directors Office, Salt Lake City.

[6] " " " " " " " " " "

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. James Dean.

STATEMENT OF JAMES C. DEAN, ARCHEOLOGIST/ PHOTOGRAPHER

Mr. DEAN. I'm James Dean, an archaeologist and a photographer. I'd like to briefly touch on the historical overview of the cultural landscape and present day photographic assessment of the area.

The historical record of man in the Great Basin covers roughly 30,000 years, encompassing periods of dramatic change as different cultures have impacted the area.

Early occupation was by three major Indian cultures followed by Spanish exploration, fur trappers and traders, and immigrant trains to California. The U.S. Government surveys established the routes for the Overland Stage, Pony Express, and Overland Telegraph. Mormon colonization played its part in the settlement of the area, followed by mining, farming, and ranching.

This led to today's cultural configuration and the necessity of establishing this national park to tell the story of the Great Basin and expand the area's economy as this park becomes a major tourist attraction.

There are so many interesting events pertaining to the area that I will focus on some of those directly involved with the proposed Great Basin National Park.

The desert culture, 8,000 B.C. to 400 A.D., was characterized by an unspecialized hunting and gathering economy, but the Indians developed basketry, the metate, and carved petroglyphs on canyon walls.

The Fremont culture, 400 A.D. to 1200 A.D., was a relatively advanced culture with compact villages, adobe houses, horticulture, more advanced tools and weapons, and had pictographs.

The Shoshone Culture, 1200 A.D. to the present, originated in the Southwest, with the people migrating northward into the Great Basin.

The Great Basin Mountains represent some of the finest recreational lands in the West. This is well illustrated on Snake Range where a variety of outdoor activities are present: Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing, and photography.

Actually, photography is an intergral part of all of the above mentioned phases of recreation.

National park status would insure that this mountain and valley area, which constitutes a typical example of the Great Basin landscape and represents a summation of the region's geographic totality, would remain for us and future generations.

Creating Great Basin National Park would leave a legacy covering six States to future generations so they could experience the majesty and size of the Great Basin.

Senator HECHT. Please summarize; your time is up.

Mr. DEAN. They would learn of the people who lived, worked and traveled through the Great Basin, leaving signs of their passing on the land and in the literature. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Dean follows:]

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Historical Overview of the Cultural Landscape

and

Present Day Photographic Assessment of the Area

10 February 1986
Senate Hearing

Ely, Nevada

James C. Dean

Archaeologist
Photographer

The historical record of man in the Great Basin covers roughly 30,000 years, encompasing periods of dramatic change as different cultures have impacted the area. Early occupation was by three major Indian cultures followed by Spanish exploration, fur trappers and traders, and emigrant trains to California. The U.S. Government Surveys established the routes for the Overland Stage, Pony Express, and Overland Telegraph. Mormon colonization played it's part in the settlement of the area followed by mining, ranching, and farming.

This led to today's cultural configuration and the necessity of establishing this National Park to tell the story of the Great Basin and expand the area's economy as this park becomes a major tourist attraction.

There are so many interesting events pertaining to the area that I will focus on some of those directly involved with the proposed Great Basin National Park.

Great Basin Indian Cultures

The Desert Culture (8,000 B.C. - 400 A.D.) Originated in northeast Asia and reached the Great Basin during late Pleistocene time, via the Alaska/Siberia land bridge, approximately 30,000 years ago. The Desert Culture was characterized by an unspecialized hunting and gathering economy, but the Indians developed basketry, the metate (grinding stone), and carved petroglyphs on canyon walls. They lived in caves and rock shelters in the Great Basin ranges, and in open campsites along the shores of ancient Lake Lahontan and Lake Bonneville.

The Fremont Culture (400 A.D. - 1200 A.D.) evolved from the preexisting Desert Culture, with an infusion of cultural traits from the Anazazi society on the Colorado Plateau. They were a relatively advanced culture with compact villages, adobe houses, horticulture, more advanced tools and weapons, pictographs, and a more complex social and

political organization. The culture terminated in the Great Basin about 1276 A.D. when a widespread drought engulfed the American southwest and forced the people to move from the area. Fremont villages were located at Garrison (excavated) and Baker (unexcavated), utilizing the water supply from the Snake and Lehman creeks.

The Shoshone Culture (1200 A.D. - Present) originated in the southwest, with the people migrating northward into the Great Basin and eventually east to the Great Plains. Their dwellings were portable skin tepees, and a hunting and gathering economy was practiced. The Shoshone Indians occupied the Great Basin when the first European settlers arrived, resulting in the disruption of their culture and a change to reservation life.

Historical Values of Great Basin Sequent Occupance

The Spanish Escalante-Dominguez Expedition of 1776 explored east of the park and led to the establishment of the old Spanish Trail in 1830.

Jedediah Smith entered the area looking for beaver streams. He was the first white man to penetrate this area, traveling 50 to 75 miles north of Wheeler Peak.

The emigrant trains to California followed three routes: the Northern (Humbolt Trail), Central (Egan-Simpson Trail), and Southern (Salt Lake-Los Angeles Trail). The Central route traverses the Snake Range through Sacramento Pass.

John C. Fremont led the first U.S. Government Surveys of the Great Basin. His first expedition circumnavigated the Great Basin (1843-1844) and the second (1845) and third (1853) expedition passed north and south of the proposed park area. Captain Fremont was responsible for naming the Great Basin.

The transportation surveys between 1855 and 1859 by Captain Gunnison, Howard R. Egan, and Captain James Simpson along the Central route to California led to the establishment of the Overland Stage (1859-1868), Pony Express (1860-1861), and the Overland Telegraph (1861-1869).

The first expedition of the Wheeler Survey passed through the proposed National Park area. The Wheeler party ascended the highest point (13,063 feet) and the event led to the naming of Wheeler Peak. This is not only the highest point in the Snake Range, but the highest between the Uinta Mountains in Utah and the White Mountains in California. The Wheeler Survey (1869-1879) was the first comprehensive survey of the American southwest.

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey established a heliograph station on Wheeler Peak from which point triangulation measurements were made of the surrounding countryside.

The Mormon settlement period beginning in 1847 was the first European colonization in the Great Basin with the founding of 376 new settlements under the direction of Brigham Young. The White Mountain Mission of 1855 led to the initial, but temporary European settlement of Snake Valley in 1858.

The famous gold producing town of Osceola 1877 figured prominantly in the mining settlement period in Nevada. Osceola is located at the north end of the proposed National Park. Osceola started with placer mining and was highlighted with the discovery by a man named Darling of a 25 pound gold nugget. The nugget was valued at 10,500 dollars and was later melted down into gold bar form.

Absalom Lehman established the first ranch in Snake Valley on Lehman Creek in 1866. He discovered Lehman Caves in 1885. Lehman Caves was made a National Monument in 1922.

Photographic Assessment of the Area

The Great Basin mountains represent some of the finest recreational lands in the West. This is well illustrated on the Snake Range where a variety of outdoor activities are present, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing and photography, which have made recreation one of the most important economic activities in the area.

Actually, as a photographer, photography is an integral part of all of the above mentioned phases of recreation.

National Park status would ensure that this mountain and valley area, which constitutes a typical example of the Great Basin landscape and represents a summation of the region's geographic totality would remain for us and future generations in such a state of preservation that the beauties, uniqueness and challenges for the photographer of today would be there for tomorrow's photographer.

Roads and trails would open presently inaccessible areas from which the photographer could capture many of the geological features. Such as the fault-block origin and geological structure of the Snake Range, the process of weathering and mass-wasting, and the work of the gradational agents in shaping the present landscape.

The photographer would be able to offer a visual explanation of the biological evolution of the area, the vertical zonation of the native plant and animal life, their division into six life zones, the associated climatic and edaphic relationships, and the characteristic botanical and zoological types that are representative of the various altitudinal levels.

The anthropological remains could be preserved so that no further vandalism would occur. The ancient art of pictographs and petroglyphs could be preserved by the modern techniques of photography.

The beauty of the caves would be able to be "removed" by the use of film and shown to many other people who would not otherwise be able to visit the caves themselves.

Great Basin National Park

Stand beside the ancient Bristlecone Pine and imagine reaching back in time 5,000 years and more to when the tree was just a seedling.

Look up to the top of the world's largest Mountain Mahogany tree as it reaches 40 feet into the sky.

Imagine Indians of the Desert Culture carving petroglyphs as you examine the canyon walls.

Ride over Sacramento Pass which James H. Simpson surveyed in 1858.

Walk through Lexington Arch, the largest Natural arch in the Great Basin.

Climb 13,063 foot Wheeler Peak and view the Great Basin as Captain George M. Wheeler saw it in 1869. Look toward the northwest to distant Diamond Peak and see the flashes of light as the heliograph station sends its message to you so you can pass it along from the heliograph station where you stand.

Walk the streets of the restored mining town of Osceola, the most famous gold town in Nevada, and dream of finding the 25 pound gold nugget that a man named Darling found in 1877.

Follow the footsteps of Absalm Lehman and explore Lehman Caves as he found them.

Creating Great Basin National Park would leave a legacy covering six states to future generations so they could experience the majesty and size of the Great Basin. They would learn of the people who lived, worked, and traveled through the Great Basin, leaving signs of their passing on the land and in the literature.

The proposed Great Basin National Park should be added to Senate Bill 722. This bill was introduced by Senators Hecht and Laxalt, last March, 1985.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

One thing I want to mention here today, as we end the hearing, is that I appreciate all of you staying to the end of the hearing. We have hearings in Washington, I have them in other places, people testify and then they take off.

It's been different this morning. There is a genuine interest here. Judging from the amount of people we have left here, the amount of interest we have in Clark County is probably equal to about 50,000 people. I want to commend each one of you.

I'm happy that we're out here. I appreciate, Tony, your coming out.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. And I appreciate Senator McClure allowing us to have these hearings in the State.

Senator Laxalt's representative, I've mentioned before, but I certainly want to express to him as soon as I see him, the tremendous interest and what that means to the park and wilderness issue.

We've heard 55 witnesses this morning. I want to point out again the record will remain open until February 28. You can send copies of your testimony to my offices in Reno and Las Vegas.

Bill Farr, stand up so they'll know you in Reno. Is Pete Kelley here? Pete is in Carson City. So you can send it to either one of those offices, to the office in Vegas, or to the Energy Committee in Washington.

I want to thank all the people of Ely for their hospitality, interest and attention, and I want to point out again that we need your views to make the necessary decisions.

And also I want to thank everyone again for their concise testimony. And anything further that you want to report, please feel free.

Thank you again. Meeting recessed.

[Whereupon, the hearing was recessed, to reconvene Tuesday, February 11, 1986, in Elko, NV.]

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

Elko, NV.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Elko, NV, Hon. Chic Hecht presiding.

Present: Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich.

Also present: Tony Brevinetto and Patricia Kennedy, professional staff members.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. It is now 9 o'clock and we are going to start our Senate hearing. I want to thank all of you who are here this morning; those of you who will soon be presenting testimony, as well as those who will not be testifying, but who, by your presence here, are showing us all how important the wilderness and national park issues are to all of you.

I am very pleased to be holding this hearing in Elko today. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has a limited budget for hearings such as this, and there are many duties to keep a Senator busy in Washington, but I decided many months ago that the financial and time constraints are clearly outweighed by the importance of giving the people of Nevada the fullest opportunity to express their views on wilderness. I have heard quite often from organizations such as the Nevada Department of Minerals and the Sierra Club, but this is my chance to hear from the people of Nevada. I want to personally thank Senator McClure who is head of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee who has allowed us to have these five hearings in Nevada.

This is the second of five hearings I am holding each day this week across the State. Since each hearing location is several hundred miles from the next, and many people wish to testify, it is necessary for each person testifying to limit their oral remarks to 3 minutes. Written statements will be included in the official hearing record in their entirety, and will be given equal weight with oral testimony.

In order to make sure we have a full 3 minutes for each witness, I will generally try to limit my questions here and now, and instead will contact you later with any questions I might have after having had an opportunity to reflect on the testimony.

We are here in the State to begin the legislative process in the Senate Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Subcommittee that will decide the general uses of the national forests in Nevada. The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area and use decisions.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see such a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the necessity to limit the testimony to 3 minutes. I ask that you withhold applause and comments as it will cut into the witness' time.

Your complete written statement will be included in the record. Any addtional materials, maps, et cetera, will be retained in the Subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington. The hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can submit a copy to my offices in Las Vegas or Reno, or the Subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition. Please summarize your statements.

There will be a printed hearing record of all five hearings which you can obtain by filling out a self-addressed sticker at the table indicated. A copy will be sent to you in a few months.

Witnesses are asked to please hold on to your written testimony until your panel is called to the witness table. We ask all witnesses to look at the order in which they are scheduled to testify and if you are in the next panel, as the panels are called up, come to the front row seats. It is just like a baseball game, a panel testifying, one on deck, the rest in the audience. The lights are used to time the witnesses. Green means go, yellow means 1 minute remaining, red means complete your statement or thought and stop.

Before we get started I want to set the record straight on three points:

First, there has been a lot of confusion about the national park proposal. I will not be taking a firm position on this issue until I have heard from all of you and the other Nevadans who will be testifying this week. You should know that you are not going to be forced to choose between either a national park or a wilderness. You do have a third option: keep things as they are now. If the people of Nevada want to keep the land just the way it is now, I will work to keep that option.

Second, the national forest wilderness controversy will not be the last time Nevadans deal with the wilderness issue. This is not the last time we will have a chance to create wilderness in our State. Even as we speak the Bureau of Land Management is busy developing its own wilderness proposal for reviewing possible wilderness. The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering another million acres or so for wilderness status. Even the National Park Service may have a modest proposal of its own.

Third, as you know, I cosponsored one of the wilderness bills before the Congress. This bill took a deliberately conservation approach to wilderness designation in our State. It has been endorsed by most of the State's county commissions, and by the State legisla-

ture. I think this bill has public support in Nevada but I am not locked in concrete about making some adjustments either way if that is the will of the people of Nevada.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to add my welcome to all of you who have come to express your opinions on the Nevada wilderness issue and the proposed Great Basin National Park. I would also like to express my appreciation to Senator Hecht for proposing these Senate hearings on the important issues you have in this room. It will be our Nevadans who will be directly affected by any proposals. Your comments will be given the utmost consideration because this is your home and ours. Many of you who are ranchers, hunters, businessmen, miners and citizens have a stake in the way Congress treats your land. We do have an extensive witness list before you today, so I will not take up more of your important time. Thank you for coming. We will be listening to you concerns.

Thank you Senator.

Senator HECHT. Before we start I want to take a moment to introduce officials who will not be testifying. James Santini, is in the audience as I understand. Assemblywoman Barbara Zimmer is here, also Patty Cofferada, State treasurer.

I want to introduce to you Scott Cameron of my staff; Patty Kennedy, from the Senate Energy staff; Ann Femia, staff assistant, and Allen Hanssen from Congresswoman Vucanovich's staff. Without further ado, let's get the first panel up here.

Senator Dean Rhodes, Roy Smith, George Corner, Duane Erickson, and because of a business commitment we are allowing Joe Royer to come up and be on the first panel.

Dean Rhodes you are the first on my list, and in your esteemed position as senator we will let you start.

STATEMENT OF DEAN A. RHODES, NEVADA STATE SENATOR

Senator RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it's a pleasure to be here and it's certainly a pleasure to have you in our State holding hearings on something that Nevada is very concerned about.

I reluctantly support SB. 722 as northern Nevada State senator serving an area from the California border to the Utah State line, representing all or parts of Elko, Humboldt, Lander and Eureka, Pershing and Washoe Counties. I am convinced that this legislation is the most reasonable one offered at this time.

Rural Nevada is hurting, tourism is down, ranching is on its back and mining, while in some areas is up, who knows what tomorrow will bring in the ever changing economic climate of the mineral industry.

To lock up thousands of acres of Federal land for a single use will certainly haunt rural Nevada in the decades ahead.

As you well know almost 87 percent of our State is owned and controlled by some Federal agency. Over 4 million acres of Federal land have already been withdrawn for use that disallows the gener-

al public. Nevada has and always will be a prime candidate for every not-wanted project in the Nation.

In my travels throughout the United States I have talked to many people, local government people, miners, sportsmen and businessmen and women, I have never heard once of anyone that increased the wilderness areas by promoting tourism, if anything it decreased the amount of usage.

Wilderness areas are not KOA Kampgrounds or a Yellowstone National Park which most people believe it is. You, the Senate and Congress must get that point across to the general public.

However, it is true, that grazing can continue in a wilderness area, however, it is subject to such reasonable regulations as are already determined necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture, but who knows what philosophies the next Secretaries of Agriculture might have. This could be very dangerous.

Again in my travels connected with meeting people in the livestock industry, I have talked to many individuals who are operating in a wilderness area and many of these, while grazing could continue, found the regulations and restrictions are too costly and too time consuming and were forced to rent or buy private lands to continue their operation.

Mining is the heartbeat of rural Nevada. Who knows what is underneath the surface until it is explored? Thank God the Freeport and Carlin gold mines were discovered and operating before the wilderness was considered. How many more Freeports and Carlins are in these proposed wilderness areas?

The biggest threat of all has to be the threat of wilderness' effect on our statewide water law. The recent Federal court decision in Colorado that water in wilderness areas must be reserved for wilderness areas by the Federal Government disturbs me very much. This decision, unless reversed by a higher ccurt, will threaten the validity of Nevada water law.

The fact that the house recently, in voting on the Seiberling-Reid Wilderness bill H.R. 3302 in committee, rejected a protection of the Nevada State Water Law by a vote of 22 to 19. This signals to me that I would much prefer to fight an issue on water rights on 136,000 acres rather than on the 1 million acres in the Seiberling-Reid proposal.

Unfortunately, the decisions we are discussing today are finalized in Washington, DC and not finalized in Nevada. Why can't we who make our homes and make a living here make those decisions here? Perhaps we might want to fan the flames of the Sagebrush Rebellion again if this wilderness issue gets out of control.

This massive amount of wilderness acreage decreases the ability of the majority of people to enjoy these lands. The change from multiple use for many to wilderness for a few is not what American is all about. I strongly support SB. 722 and offer my assistance any way possible.

Nevada's legislative Committee on Public Lands on which I serve as chairman, will be presenting their testimony Thursday in Reno. I will not go into those details at this time, but only to remind you that the Nevada legislature in the 1985 session passed in the assembly a joint resolution, one supporting the 136,900 acres for wilderness, by a 60 to 3 vote. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Senator, All right, Chairman Roy Smith.

STATEMENT OF ROY SMITH, CHAIRMAN, ELKO COUNTY COMMISSION, ELKO, NV

Mr. SMITH. Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Roy Smith. I am presently a member and chairman of the Elko County Board of Commissioners. I have been asked to present this testimony on their behalf.

On June 11, 1984, the members of the Elko County Commission went on record as formally opposing any further wilderness designation in Elko County beyond the already Jarbidge Wilderness Area. We still, individually and collectively, prefer this position.

However, in view of the fact that without legislation on wilderness in Nevada, some 65 percent of the national forest lands are being managed as wilderness at this time.

It was felt there was a need for wilderness legislation for Nevada on the Federal level. In reviewing the proposals that were presented in the House of Representatives and the Senate, it was determined by the commission that if a compromise position was to be taken in regard to wilderness in Elko that the bills introduced by Senators Hecht and Laxalt and Representative Vucanovich were the only compromise that could be taken. A resolution that was supporting these bills was reluctantly adopted on December 5, 1985.

In addition, we, as a commission, believe that any wilderness legislation proposed for Nevada should not lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones and that wilderness designation does not create Federal reserved water rights or interfere with proposed water projects or other local water uses.

In closing, the Elko County Commission strongly believes that multiple use of public lands in Elko County is more appropriate and desirable than a single use designation such as wilderness and the amount and location of designated wilderness areas in Elko County in the other proposed legislature on the Federal level are unacceptable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time to express the views and concerns of the commission.

Senator HECHT. I think in my introduction, I was remiss in not introducing Senator Laxalt's administrative aide, Kelton Abbott, who is riding with us in our van. He is with us today, so Senator Laxalt will be fully apprised of all the hearings. Also present is a very distinguished man, Snowy Monroe, who is an old friend.

STATEMENT OF D. GEORGE CORNER, MAYOR, ELKO, NV

Mayor CORNER. Thank you Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich. As mayor of the city of Elko and a member of the Elko County Recreation Board, I am here to present a resolution unanimously adopted by both boards supporting legislation on wilderness introduced in Congress by Senator Laxalt and Congresswoman Vucanovich. We have followed the wilderness debate closely, particularly as it relates to impact on local governments. We feel that a reasonable approach to the wilderness issue is needed

and this is represented by the legislation we have chosen to support.

The people we represent remain unconvinced that wilderness is in their best interest.

The Forest Service is charged with identifying those lands under their jurisdiction that could qualify as wilderness. The professionals that were assigned that task identified 173,871 acres in their original Rare I process. That wasn't enough for the environmentalists and their protests and clamor resulted in more studies.

The criteria for land to qualify for wilderness was loosened and more acreage was added. The boundaries were realigned to go around roads and other manmade obstacles that couldn't be redefined out of existence until the proposed wilderness areas resemble political gerrymandering.

We are now involved in Rare III and the Forest Service has identified 452,010 acres that could qualify as wilderness.

Congressmen Reid and Sieberling have deemed themselves more knowledgeable than the professionals and have determined that two or three times as much land as identified by the Forest Service should be wilderness. In their enthusiasm they have even included land that isn't under their jurisdiction in their proposal.

Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and Congresswoman Vucanovich have listened to the professionals and chose a reasonable amount of those lands identified by the Forest Service that will be designated as wilderness.

The environmentalists point to the fact the Reid-Siberling bills would amount to only a small percentage of Nevada's land area. They choose to ignore the fact that the majority of our prime outdoor recreation areas are represented by that small percentage and they would be closed to many of the people who now enjoy it.

This hearing is directed only at the Forest Service wilderness. The BLM has currently 76 wilderness study areas in Nevada totaling 4.4 million acres. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has three areas totaling 1.7 million acres. This hearing is only one of many that the people of Nevada will have to attend to continue to defend the multiple use of our land.

We urge Congressman Reid to join the rest of Nevada's congressional delegation to resolve the issue of wilderness in Nevada. Thank you.

[Resolution submitted by Mayor Corner follows:]

CITY OF ELKO

RESOLUTION NO. 14-85

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BILL SUBMITTED IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS LAXALT AND HECHT AND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY REPRESENTATIVE VUCANOVICH REGARDING AN ADDITION TO WILDERNESS IN ELKO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Elko County currently has a Wilderness Area designated, the Jarbidge Wilderness, which comprises 64,667 acres and the addition proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would increase that area by an additional 23,000 acres for a total of 87,567 acres, and

WHEREAS, the reasons supporting this addition to Wilderness in Elko County is reasonable and the action is justified, and

WHEREAS, any additional Wilderness designation in Elko County over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would be an unreasonable imposition on the residents of the County of Elko.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Elko, County of Elko, State of Nevada, supports the additional 23,000 acres of Wilderness proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich and oppose any additional Wilderness in Elko County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1985.

D. George Corner

D. GEORGE CORNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Giuliana Murphy

GIULIANA MURPHY, CITY CLERK

VOTE:

AYES: Mayor, D. George Corner; Supervisors, Marvin Churchfield, Barbara Errecart, Robert McBride

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Supervisor: Dick Snyder

ABSTAIN:

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Mayor. The next witness is from the department of wildlife.

STATEMENT OF DUANE ERICKSON, ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA STATE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Mr. ERICKSON. My name is Duane Erickson and I am representing the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Our agency has provided input on wilderness related issues since 1964. We believe it is important to reiterate to this committee and the general public our position as supported by the recently adopted position of the State board of wildlife commissioners on the proposed wilderness areas within the national forests in Nevada.

By law the department of wildlife is responsible for the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife in its natural habitat in Nevada and our comments on wilderness are therefore related to our future ability to effectively carry out these mandated responsibilities. It is important to note that our agency has not proposed any wilderness areas in Nevada but rather has reviewed and provided wildlife related input into potential wilderness areas proposed by others.

Basically wilderness designation has both positive and negative impact on various wildlife species and our ability to manage those species. The department has supported those proposed areas wherein potential benefits outweigh adverse impacts and where management prerogatives are not seriously impaired. Much of our interpretation is associated with wilderness management in the Jarbidge Wilderness and input from other State wildlife agencies with considerable experience in wilderness management. Some of the more important factors considered by the department of wildlife in wilderness and wildlife management evaluations are, one, access, since very little access is being closed off in those areas which we supported, we believe that protection from future development outweighs any future needs to expand existing access. It has also been our experience some wildlife species favor the solitude afforded by wilderness protection. No. 2, surveys: Most of our wildlife surveys are conducted by aerial censusing, a management tool which is not precluded by the 1964 Wilderness Act. Our ability to conduct ground surveys which are utilized for some species will not be significantly diminished by wilderness designation in those areas that we have supported. Three, habitat manipulation: Most habitat manipulation projects such as seeding, controlled burns, and chainings are precluded in wilderness areas. From a wildlife perspective we have not supported any areas where these types of projects are deemed a necessity for current or future wildlife management objectives. Deer winter ranges and areas lacking adequate water for wildlife have not received the support of our agency because of the potential need to conduct mechanical manipulations to enhance wildlife habitat. Four, motorized equipment: We do not anticipate the future need for using motorized equipment in those proposed wilderness areas supported by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Five, transplants: Wilderness designation would preclude the introduction of exotic wildlife species and make the introduction of nonnative wildlife more difficult. Wilderness designation does not pre-

clude the reintroduction of expatriated species into formerly occupied habitat.

In evaluating the above factors in addition to others associated with the Wilderness Act our agency supports those wilderness recommendations presented in the draft forest plans for the Toyiabe, Humboldt, and Inyo National Forests in addition to those areas listed in H.R. 3302 as amended for Mount Rose, the East Humboldt Range and Table Mountain. We believe the designation of these areas, totally some 624,610 acres as wilderness would be of benefit to the wildlife, wildlife habitat and the public who utilize these resources for consumptive and nonconsumptive purposes.

On behalf of the department I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present our views on this important issue. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, very much. Our next witness, we brought up because of business commitments. Joe Royer, has spent 35 years in the Ruby Mountains. He's got people out in the snow and he has to go bring them back.

STATEMENT OF JOE ROYER, RUBY MOUNTAIN HELICOPTER SKIING, LAMOILLE, NV

Mr. ROYER. My name is Joe Royer. I am from Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing, Lamoille, NV. What we do is we offer wilderness experience to approximately 20 people per day, 6 days a week from mid-January to May. It's been an operation that started 9 years ago and over the years it's become somewhat profitable and has gained national recognition. It's possibly some of the best helicopter skiing in the United States. It's also the only designation helicopter skiing in the United States. We use the helicopter for up-hill tours, transportation along with a snowcat and certainly this has no impact on the environment at all. Our guests come from all over the country, they come to Elko. This tour that's on the mountain right now is from Illinois, Ohio, California, and New York. I think our guests help the economy in both Elko and where we are based out in Lamoille. The people love the Ruby Mountains and they really like to come here. To restrict this service would be a great disappointment. For this reason I support the Laxalt, Vucanovich, and Hecht bills. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. I want to thank you very much Mr. Royer.

Mayor, I really appreciate you testifying because unfortunately some members of the press around Nevada said this is a Republican bill and others say it is a Democratic bill and so you had bipartisan support. Nevada has always been a bipartisan State, if anything. I want to know if there is anything you want to add to this because I know you must be getting a little heat on this?

Mayor CORNER. Well, there's nothing I can add without going to great lengths, Senator. I also point out I sit on the State of Nevada Multiple-use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands and I've listened to this issue for years and I am sure I will listen to it for many more years and we appreciate your help in trying to get it resolved.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Duane, you mentoned 624,610 acres as wilderness; but when Dean Rhodes was speaking he said the Nevada Legislature, by a 60 to 3 vote endorsed our bill. How do you relate to that?

Mr. ERICKSON. I guess we are looking at it from a lot broader aspect. We are looking at it from involvement with wildlife management and what wilderness will do to the wildlife and for the wildlife, and for the people of the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Was this brought out in testimony before the State legislature voted on it? Were these figures brought out? Dean, do you want to answer that?

Senator RHODES. I am not on that committee but not to my knowledge. Not to my knowledge it was not but I was not on that committee but it was not brought out on the floor of the Senate when we voted on it.

Senator HECHT. Where did you come up with that amount? Is that amount proposed by the Forest Service? Does it include the Humboldt, Toyiable and Inyo Forests plus additional forests on Mount Rose, Table Mountain and East Humboldt?

What were the original bills though? The original bills for the Forest Service proposed, unfortunately, just over 400,000 acres. I just wanted to know how they came up with more acreage. I was told by staff that you liked some of the proposals in the other bill. Is that right?

In Washington we got a lot of proposals by different department heads and departments but it is always up to the elected officials to make that final determination and create an Act. How does it work at the State legislature?

Senator RHODES. We listen to each department. Evidently the legislature did not agree with the department. Even if that information was brought out at the time, I am sure that our position, at least my position, would be the same in January 1977 as it was in 1985.

Senator HECHT. Correct me for the record, this was a resolution, did the Governor sign that resolution?

Senator RHODES. Yes.

Senator HECHT. So what is his position; do you know?

Mr. ERICKSON. I don't think the State has one.

Senator RHODES. I don't think he has taken one, the legislature has.

Mayor CORNER. I point out the State Multiuse Advisory Committee did take exception to the fact that we did have State branches and State departments representing a position that was different than that position that was adopted by the legislature and signed in resolution by the Governor.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for giving me an opinion about that. That's the reason we brought these hearings out to Nevada to save you people money.

Joe Royer, let me ask you this question, would the Reid bill put you out of business?

Mr. ROYER. It would restrict our business. It would not put me entirely out of business, no sir, but it would restrict me and stop further development for sure.

Senator HECHT. How about the bill we have? Would that restrict you in anyway?

Mr. ROYER. It would restrict us in some matters but we could operate our present business as it is now.

Senator HECHT. I have read the Elko Daily Press every morning in Washington because we have the Washington Post, which is the most liberal paper in America, and this gets me back on track everyday. One of you, I forget who, mentioned an opposition to the Jarbidge Wilderness and restricted areas. Do any of you want to address that Jarbidge area?

Senator RHODES. I think there are people here from that area who are going to testify later on that.

Senator HECHT. We will get to that later on. Congresswoman Vucanovich, I was simply going to proceed but if you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Duane, I am a little bit confused by your testimony. Have you taken any position or has the Fish and Game taken any position on any of the bills or are you just going out and picking and choosing what you support from the various bills? I am a little confused by the testimony of the Forest Service. I guess by the picking and choosing and not totally supporting a bill.

Mr. ERICKSON. Which bill are you talking about? What we have supported is the proposed wilderness areas by the Forest Service and that is not a bill, it's just areas that were proposed by the Forest Service.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. To your knowledge are any of those proposed areas in any of the proposed bills?

Mr. ERICKSON. Yes; quite a number of them are encompassed in those, yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I guess I am trying to get some indication from you as to which bills you think most closely would follow the recommendations of the Fish and Game?

Mr. ERICKSON. I suppose the closest would be the Reid bill since we are supporting somewhere near 624,000 acres and I believe the Reid bill is around 700,000 acres. That probably comes the closest, yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. No further questions, thank you very much. That was the representative from the Nevada Wildlife being asked questions. And I notice Senator Bill Bilyeu walked in. I want to acknowledge that you are here. He was here and now he's gone again. He's out in the back.

The second panel is Joan Smith, Kenneth Jones, Cliff Gardner, Wayne Marteney, and Lloyd Sorenson.

We are ready Joan Smith, chairman of the Elko County Farm Bureau, Ruby Valley.

STATEMENT OF JOAN SMITH, WOMEN'S CHAIRMAN, ELKO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Ms. SMITH. I am Joan Smith, Women's Chairman of the Elko County Farm Bureau. I am also the wife of a Nevada rancher. Our ranch is in Ruby Valley at the foot of the Ruby Mountains, I do support the Hecht, Laxalt, and Vucanovich wilderness bills that are being considered by the Senate and the House of Representatives. They provide for limited wilderness, which I feel is even

more than is needed for a small minority of our population that feel the need to backpack and have pristine experience.

Actually Federal wilderness is unconstitutional. If wilderness is needed it should be handled at the State level. In the U.S. Constitution, articled one, section eight, clause seventeen it states,

> The people of the States empower Congress to exercise complete jurisdiction and authority over all lands or facilities purchased within a State, providing it shall be with the consent of the legislature of that State.

Such land shall be used for the "erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards and other needful buildings." I notice it said needful buildings and land for war weapons. And notice there is no place in the Constitution that allows for any Federal wilderness or for the Government to own any State lands other than for the purposes mentioned above. There has never been an amendment to change this clause.

The Nevada 1985 Legislature has just passed a bill, A-JR1 forbidding any extra wilderness to be set aside other than that mentioned in the H.R 1686 Hecht bill. The Federal Government is already controlling 87 percent of Nevada's land unconstitutionally. We can not allow more of this illegal business to go on in the form of wilderness.

If we allow the Federal Government to control our Nevada water rights in our mountain area where most of our water originates, as has happened in Colorado with the help of the Sierra Club, the Federal Government would have the right of dictatorship over most of our future projects meaning water by the State or on privately owned lands. We only hope that Colorado can turn that decision around so it will not affect other States that are loosing vast sections of land to wilderness. We in the Ruby Valley would feel disastrous affects of this. We depend on mountain water for all our irrigation and projects needs. That would be the end of ranching in the Ruby Valley. Land and water are the body and blood of our State and if we lose it we will be a weak State indeed.

Ranchers have possessory rights to Federal lands through prior use and money involved in water, range rights and range improvements such as development of springs, wells, stock water ponds, pipe, pumps, fences, privately built roads, and livestock handling facilities. I do not feel the need to put more of our land into a Federal park near Ely. Any need for additional parks should be under State control and that one is not necessary. If fires are allowed to burn in wilderness areas before fire control is used in the Rubys, several ranches could be burned out before the fire could be controlled in our lower areas because of the directions we have with the winds out through that area.

Wilderness is discriminatory to those who do not want or like to backpack, it would exclude those with old age, health problems and those who want to use the mountains for recreation, camping and picnicing. They also want to enjoy pristine experiences. Let's keep our lands in multi-use so we can all enjoy it and use it. Thank you, Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich for this opportunity to express our opinions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Smith follows:]

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

February 11, 1986

Joan Smith - O X Ranch, Ruby Valley, Nevada
Elko Wilderness Hearing - with Senator Hecht
Chairman of the Elko County Farm Bureau Women
Rancher's Wife

1. I am for Senator Hecht's Bill HR-1686
2. Unconstitutional
3. Bill A-JR1 passed in the State Legislature
4. Water rights
5. Possessary rights
6. Fire Hazzard
7. National parks
8. Multiple use
9. America needs food

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

Re: Elko Wilderness Hearing - Joan Smith

I am Joan Smith, the Women's Chairman of the Elko County Farm Bureau. I am also the wife of a Nevada rancher. Our ranch is in Ruby Valley at the foot of the Ruby Mountains. I do support the Hecht, Laxault, and Vucanovich Wilderness Bills that are being considered by the Senate and House of Representatives at this time. They provide for limited wilderness, which I feel is even more than is needed for a small minority of our population that feel the need to back pack and have pristine experiences.

Actually, federal wilderness is unconstitutional.. If wilderness is needed it should be handled on a state level. In the United States Constitution, article 1 section 8 clause 17, it states, "The people of the states empower congress to exercise complete jurisdiction and authority over all lands or facilities purchased within a state, providing it shall be with the consent of the legislature of that state. Such lands shall be used for the "erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards and other needful buildings". Notice it said needful buildings and land for war weapons. There is no place in the Constitution that allows for any federal wilderness, or for the government to own any state land other than for the purposes mentioned above. There has never been an amendment to change this clause.

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If we allow the federal government to get control of our water rights in our Mountain area, where most of our water originates, as has happened in Colorado with the help of the Sierra Club, the federal government would have the right of dictatorship over most of our future projects needing water by the state or on privetly owned land. We can only hope that Colorado can turn that decision around so it will not affect other states that are loosing vast sections of land to wilderness. We in Ruby Valley would feel disasterous affects of this. We depend on Mountain water for all of our irrigation and projects needs. That would be the end of ranching in that area.

Land and water are the body and blood of our state. If we give the rights of these to the federal government we will be a weak state indeed.

Ranchers have to protect their state and possessary rights to survive. We definatly have rights through prior years of use and money involved in water and range rights and range improvements such as development of springs, wells, stock water ponds, pipe, pumps.

SMITH BROS. OX RANCH
RUBY VALLEY, NEVADA 89833
702-779-2293

Re: Elko Wilderness Hearing - John Smith

fences, privatly built roads and livestock handling facilities.

I do not feel the need to put more of our land into a national park near Ely. If parks are needed they should be state parks and not federal. I feel that with all of the areas of Nevada, that are being managed by the Forest Service, and are available for camping, scenery, and pristine experiences, it is unnecessary to remove more land from production for this purpose.

If the Forest Service, Reid or Siberling bills go through, and the "Proposed Forest Plan" for fire protection is followed it could have devistating effects on the Ruby Valley ranches. Section IV - page 146 reads "allow fire to express it's natural roll in the ecosystem. In the Ruby Valley area we always fear large forest fires, and if grass is allowed to grow at will, and without grazing to shorten that grass, it could be a real fire hazard if fires are allowed to continue to burn in it's natural roll in the ecosystem before being controled by fire fighters. The direction the winds blow in that area several ranches could be burnt out before the fire could be controlled in our lower areas.

I feel our mountains should be left free for multipurpose use so all people can enjoy it. We need this land for grazing, mining and minerals, trapping, hunting, backpacking, skiing, snow mobiling, camping and picnicing. This land should be used with respect and left in good condition.

It is wrong to set aside vast areas of land for the few who want to backpack. It is selfish to exclude those with old age, health problems, and also those who want to use the mountain but do not enjoy backpacking. These people want to use these areas for recreation, camping and picnicing. They also want to enjoy pristine experiences. In Idaho they mountain roads were closed because they were declared ways instead of roads. This shows how far we can trust the statements that have been made by those wanting these vast wilderness areas. These people had been promised their roads would not be closed. We are also told we can keep grazing but we know we can not graze under the prescribed rules.

We should remember that America needs food, and other products this land is providing to survive.

The rubies are so rugged that they are insurmountable to the average man. They are virtually the same in the higher areas as when the Donner Party came through this area in 1846, and will continue to be that way for the use of those who want to back pack, even if they are left in multiple use.

Let us keep our land free for multiple use, so all can enjoy it and it can be used for the welfare of America as well

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Next is Kenneth Jones.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH JONES, LAMOILLE, NV

Mr. JONES. My name is Kenneth Jones and I live on a ranch in the Lamoille area. Our family owns around 8,000 acres of private land that lies at the foot of the Ruby Mountains. I strongly endorse the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill and strongly oppose the Reid-Sieberling Wilderness bills. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinions here today.

The Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill was drafted after considerable discussion with Nevadans and lands that would be included in that bill meet wilderness criteria. Reid's bill was drafted after a whirlwind tour of the State of Nevada with John Sieberling from Ohio and after some consultations with the Sierra Club and with precious little planning or forethought. Much of the land included in the Reid bill does not meet wilderness criteria. There are road and range improvements and even some of our private land is included. The Sieberling and Reid tour last summer was billed as a chance to get information and to be able to voice our opinions. I told him that local residents and citizens of Nevada did not want a wilderness. His answer was, "You can bet you are going to get it."

Reid's bill would greatly reduce the value of our private land and it would restrict our access to it as well as the uses we could put it to. Other adverse effects I could see in his bill that has been mentioned is the assault on State water rights, the helicopter skiing, access for hunting and fishing, as well as the forest land and mining. Can you imagine what Senator Rhodes said, imagine what our economy would be like if wilderness had been earlier and before these gold companies got going and it also would have an effect on grazing.

In the course of your hearings I am sure you will find, if you don't already know, Nevadans with deep roots in the land who love and respect the land more than weekend "do-gooders" are vitually unanimous in their desire to see our land continue as multiple-use rather than on a single use basis. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Cliff Gardner.

STATEMENT OF CLIFF GARDNER, PRESIDENT, ELKO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mr. GARDNER. Senator Hecht, we greatly appreciate your taking the time to conduct these hearings throughout Nevada and Congresswoman Vucanovich we appreciate your being here today.

I am Cliff Gardner and I have lived on a ranch in the south end of Ruby Valley all of my life. I am now serving as president of Elko County Farm Bureau and we are opposed to the designated wilderness in Nevada. In fact, due to the recent district court decision finding Federal reserved water rights do exist for wilderness areas, Nevadans should seek to abolish the wilderness area at Jarbidge.

There are more than 100 different mountain ranges in Nevada, everyone of which offer its own special kind of wilderness. To designate any of these areas as wilderness is selfish. It disregards the multiple-use concept. It infringes on the rights of ranchers, farmers, miners, hunters, snowmobilers, and others to pursue our out-

door recreational activities and their livelihood as they have traditionally.

Wilderness proponents would have us believe otherwise, that our grazing rights, water rights, our ability to protect our lands from noxious weeds and wildfire will be protected. But long years of conflict with environmentalists tell us differently.

My personal experience has taught me many times that so-called conservationists are not so interested in protecting our resources as they are in getting the ranchers and miners and eventually even the hunters off our public lands. Wilderness will give them the extra leverage to accomplish their goals.

Only in the Laxalt-Hecht and Vucanovich bills is an extra effort made to protect the rights of those who live here.

Neither do we support the Great Basin National Park. To benefit the tourists trade at the expense of the Baker family and others who live there is unfair.

In the first 120 years of mining activity in Nevada, or until 1974, only thirty-one one thousandths of 1 percent of our State was disturbed by mining. Locking any of our lands away from free mineral exploration is unacceptable. Minerals unknown to us today can provide for our defense and freedom tomorrow. Freedom is being lost in America, but to we rural people of Nevada it's still our number one priority.

Business and enterprise have been fair game in America in recent years. The environmental movement has held back millions and driven untold numbers of businesses and industry from our land. The wilderness concept is part of that movement. It should not be tolerated.

As an alternative to parks and wilderness I suggest an extended and well publicized trail system be developed throughout a large portion of our Nevada mountains.

In conclusion, the ability of the ranching industry to survive our current economic dilemma, and emerge as family held units, depends on our ability to hold America's move toward socialism in check.

Please continue to help us all you can.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Wayne.

STATEMENT OF WAYNE S. MARTENEY, PRESIDENT, NEVADA LAND ACTION ASSOCIATION

Mr MARTENEY. My name is Wayne Marteney and my address is Maggie Creek Ranch. I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear here.

I am president of the Nevada Land Action Association which is the legal arm of the Nevada Cattlemens Association. I am also immediate past president of the Nevada Cattlemens Association. I am testifying in support of the Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt wilderness bill. Some of the main reasons are as follows: Language is written into this bill which allows reasonable access with motorized vehicles to keep up present improvements, such as water facilities, fences, salting and tending sick animals, et cetera. The other two bills do not have this specific language written in.

This bill protects the State's water rights and clearly states so in its language. The other two bills leave a cloud in this area. The Government is claiming reserved water rights on the streams originating in the proposed wilderness areas. A good example is the recent court ruling in the Colorado hearings. Here in Nevada we already have several suits filed against the Federal Government protesting these decisions. The State of Nevada attorney general has joined with us along with the Mountain States Legal Foundation in fighting for our State's water rights. The Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt bill has specific language in it protecting these rights.

Congressman Reid read into the Congressional Record when testifying for his bill, and I quote, "My wilderness bill will make it better for the ranchers." This is not true. In more instances, and a good example is in Idaho where land went into wilderness and is considered multiple-use, down the line rancher's AUM's were lost and have gradually been eased out of the multiple-use concept. This follows through in most cases. The policy and rule seem to change after it becomes a wilderness.

In Nevada the large acreage that the Sieberling bill and the Reid bill cover does not strictly adhere to criteria of true wilderness. Too many of the acres they propose are sage and hills and do not fit the true wilderness concepts.

We in Nevada do not need Congressmen from the Midwest telling us what is needed here in Nevada in the way of wilderness. I personally resent this statement that was made and we do know and for that reason are here testifying.

Our Nevada Legislature, both the assembly and the senate, passed unanimously a resolution supporting the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill.

I am obliged to bring additional information from the just completed National Cattlemen's Association Convention in San Antonio, TX. The Cattlemen's Association passed before the entire membership at the convention a resolution opposing wilderness in any area unless it had language written in to protect the State's water rights from the reserved water clause. I before mentioned that the motorized vehicles and continuation of multiuse as is in place now.

Again, I want to thank you folks for the opportunity to appear here as a Nevadan in support of this bill. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Lloyd.

STATEMENT OF LLOYD SORENSON, ELKO, NV

Mr. SORENSON. My name is Lloyd Sorenson and I live in Elko. I moved to Elko County in 1950. I own ranch property around the Humboldt National Forest and East Humboldt National Forest. I have permits on the BLM and Forest Service and I own considerable private land in these various areas. What I had in mind to say has already been said but I want to thank you for coming out here and I will tell you a few things personally.

I am amazed at the Forest Service and BLM are proposing more wilderness. They have got more now than they can handle and under their jurisdiction today they have rules and regulations whereby if they choose to use these lands they can do with the

tools they have now. And why they suggest going into wilderness I can't understand. In the area where I operate, around these various mountains, we have roads going up where we could either haul water and hunters could go and drive up and hunt and they have restricted the use of those roads. And in order to get to a wilderness area in BLM, they had detoured them around the road we had built and roads are not created in a wilderness. It was already a wilderness of its own because they couldn't get in there. Is that the definition of wilderness—people can't get in?

Senator HECHT. You can get in but you can't use any motorized vehicles.

Mr. SORENSON. Well, then they have stopped motorized vehicles but all these areas where these roads were they have stopped us from maintaining or doing anything except what we do with pick and shovel and my hands are not very accustomed to that anymore. I would like to get them back to the realities of life where we could do these things with what is available to us.

Now if you have any way, I suggest we turn those people around. I thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Yesterday I as in Ely, and there was a lot of testimony given and a lot of people came right out and said they don't want any wilderness but if they have to take one our bill is the best. Let me ask each one of you do you want any wilderness at all?

Mr. SORENSON. I would like to answer that, no.

Ms. SMITH. If I had to make a choice I would say no, but yours is the best bill if we have to have some, yours is the best.

Mr. JONES. I agree, but we don't need wilderness but yours is the lesser of evils.

Mr. GARDNER. I'll say amen to that.

Mr. MARTENEY. In discussing the farm and State situation at length it's evident throughout our industry and people who are associated with, Nevadans that we know are opposed to wilderness. There was some push when we went to the State meeting possibly we should be supporting your bill because it does write in extra provisions to protect us but now that policy has gone onto the national level. I just got my hands on the national policy that has been adopted on the national level this morning and reading it it's evident that input from all over the United States we don't want wilderness and there's a copy of their policy on the last page of my testimony.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I have that, by attendance here and by attendance in Ely yesterday, attendance is equal to 50,000 people in Clark County, populationwise. It's a very big issue and that's why we are here to get your opinions on this issue.

Wayne, you mentioned in your testimony about State water rights language and protection. If you talked to attorneys in Washington you get 10 different answers on that. That's a pretty difficult thing to bring out, how we can protect you.

Mr. MARTENEY. I feel the State here in Nevada where the attorney general got into it, your Mountain States Legal Foundation, the stands they have taken in our bill there's wording in that that addresses this particular thing and it's very much of concern in Nevada because who ever controls the water, Senator, controls and

land. That's one of the things we are quite concerned about and the Colorado issue that came up, you know, it kind of clouds the issue on reserve water rights that go to the public back to 1926. I think, Senator, they are hanging their hats on that and it has to be addressed in your bill and it's not addressed in the same fashion in the other bills that you folks have, is what we like about it.

Senator HECHT. Are you comfortable with our language?

Mr. MARTENEY. Yes, you don't have to get an attorney every time you take your cattle out. I think your language in there protects the multiple-use as well as the water.

Senator HECHT. But the courts down the line will probably be the judge of that.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator. I would just like to say be careful on this water issue. One of the reasons we insisted on putting it in our bill was because I felt it should be specifically addressed. Although some people have mentioned it when we debated this issue in the House, it lost by only one vote and that's really surprising because not only those people who think it is important but, I would say, half of all of them agreed with us, and we lost by only one vote. People seem to think it is only going to affect Nevada. That simply isn't true because once you establish a principle in law it can be used further down the line. I think it is one of the key issues in this whole debate. I have no questions other than that.

Senator HECHT. Thank you all very much. Let's move on to panel No. 3: Earl Risberg, Vince Mendive, Walt Gardner, George Abegglen, and Deloyd Satterthwaite.

Earl Risberg.

STATEMENT OF EARL R. RISBERG, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV

Mr. RISBERG. Good morning, Senator. My name is Earl Risberg from Battle Mountain. I am a retired range conservationist and I support your wilderness bill and am opposed to Congressman Reid's, although philosophically I am against the wilderness concept. I think I am going to have to just settle with leaving my written statement. I about lost my voice.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Risberg follows:]

Statement to the Senate Committee on Wilderness

Elko, Nevada

11 February 1986

CONTENTS

1. Who Benefits?

2. On Solitude

3. On "Ecology" and "Ecologists"

Statement by:

Ear R. Risberg
Battle Mountain, Nevada

Age 49

Occupation: Retired Range Conservationist

Part time Salesman for a Battle Mountain Sporting goods business

1. WHO BENEFITS?

The only segment of the population that stands to benefit from wilderness designation is the granola chomping children of the affluent. This group desires its own private playground at the expense of the rest of the population. This is their prime reason for promoting wilderness designation. Forget about any altruistic claims that they desire relic areas of any other sugar coating they may put on their proposals to make them more palotable. (I am a diabetic and the sugar coating doesn't wash with me.) These "relic" or "pristine" areas have survived the ravages of a far less environmentally concerned era of our history; is it not reasonable to assume that, in the present era of stringent regulatory constraints on the use of the land, these areas can survive without designation as wilderness? I do not believe for a minute that any single group has a monopoly on concern for the environment. The rancher, the miner, the logger and other "exploitive" users of the public land are every bit as concerned about the environment they must live in as the backpackers, birdwatchers etc.

2. ON SOLITUDE

What is this B.S. about a "feeling of solitude"? I fail to see how anyone can have a feeling of solitude when he is in the company of several other people on a hike. A real "feeling of solitude" is knowing that if you get into trouble there is not likely to be anyone happening by to help you.

PAGE 2 (Con't)

You damn sure don't need a wilderness area to have such a realization. As of this writing I am nearly to the half century mark and, believe it or not, I am in good enough physical condition to travel afoot into these "pristine" areas or whatever you want to call a rugged piece of real estate. (I don't wear those god awful waffle stomping hiking shoes either; I wear White Packers.) A wilderness designation would not increase my enjoyment of this activity one whit whether it be hunting season and I'm packing one of my fine weapons or the off season and I'm hunting subjects for my camera. When the time comes to me, as it must to everyone, that I no longer have the physical prowess to visit these haunts afoot, I would like to know that I could still visit them with an ORV where practical.

3. ON "ECOLOGY" AND "ECOLOGISTS"

"Ecology" has lately become almost a buzzword. It is defined as the study of organisms and their relationship to their environment. A quarter century ago it was understood by the biologist, to whom it was an auxiliary science and by those who specialized in it. Today, who knows what it means? The term has been so overused by so many pseudo-scientists that it no longer has a definite meaning. These Neo-Ecologists must think that mankind is a very recent invader from outer space. In fact, mankind has been a component in the succession of planet earth for about two million years, give or take a few millennia, so

PAGE 3 (Con't)

it would appear that he is as natural a component of the biosphere as jack rabbits or any other component. Modern man is a product of a long process of succession in which he emerged 50 to 100 thousand years ago as a creature who was able to exert a measure of conscious control over his environment and to move into areas other than that in which he evolved. That process of succession has continued unabated down to the present. It makes no sense to talk about what an area would be like without man's intrusion. Man has arrived and you'd better believe he's a part of the ecosystem! Declaring a wilderness is not going to change that! Legions of backpackers and pack trains will change the wilderness just as surely as a D-9 will!

Senator HECHT. It should happen to a lot of politicians in Washington. We would be better off. Your statement will be part of the record as though it were read.

Vince Mendive.

STATEMENT OF VINCE E. MENDIVE, ELKO, NV

Mr. MENDIVE. First off my name is Vince Mendive and I would like to express my appreciation for you to come out here and listen to public opinion on this matter. I'm a 19-year-old rancher in the Wildhorse Reservoir area and have lived on my family's ranch all my life.

How do you get to be a rancher at 19 years, you might ask. Also see I am one of the two youngest people up here, but we young people of Nevada do have an opinion also and I would like to express it to you.

I went to high school in Owyhee on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. I graduated in June 1985. When I was in high school I was very active in the Future Farmers of America and currently serve as a State officer in FFA. Throughout my life—what short life it may be as compared to up here—I've learned a lot about the rapidly changing ways of the life and land and people. And I've decided to pursue ranching as a career and I have chosen this career wanting to be given a fair chance to become a successful rancher. A lot of people chuckle when they hear that but you know it's not looking so good for ranchers right now but I am willing to take that chance and ask for a fair chance of being a rancher because there are not a whole lot of successful ranchers around. But the way it's looking with expanding wilderness, it's making it tougher and tougher even for the successful ranchers to stay in ranching. So I do strongly oppose wilderness. I oppose the wilderness we already have and if you are familiar with the saying, a good defense is a good offense, I feel maybe we can fix the Sierra Club by fixing up a way to get a bill that says we take out the wilderness Nevada already has. But you know that probably will not be possible but what better way to look at it through the lives of the people experiencing it. The people often have different ways of looking at things so they form different opinions and this is what's happening with this case. I do have one question though, on the public opinion, does it matter? The public opinion that you are hearing today, does it matter what we say when you stand up to vote back in Washington or I noticed in your conversation with Major Corner, do you just vote by the political party that you are representing? No I don't see as to where that should be such a big deal. I feel we should—I feel you should vote on what's in the best interest of Nevada not for your political party. I would like to quote from a rancher I've had a chance to talk to in the Wildhorse area since there are none here. He says, "They are a damn bunch of thieves." He's speaking of the pro-wilderness people, Harry Reid. I don't go as far as to say that maybe the land was never ours but the grazing land that we've used throughout the years and managed properly so we could keep grazing, get the best utilization of it and water development we've put in, what's that come to when that gets turned into wilderness?

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Now as we go through life we should always be looking into the future not only for ourselves but for generations to come. Now what kind of future does Nevada have with continuing expansion of wilderness? What kind of future do the young business people have?

Senator HECHT. You have to summarize now, your time is up.

Mr. MENDIVE. I am opposed to any wilderness. I will support your bill S. 722. I think the majority of people should strongly be considered and I feel that when you are back in Washington voting, think of the people, not your political party. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mendive follows:]

Vincent E. Mendive
Gold Creek
Elko, NV 89801
Phone: Northfork 6482

February 10, 1985

Dear Sirs,

I am a 19 year old rancher in the Wildhorse Reservoir area and have lived on my family's ranch all of my life. I graduated from Owyhee High School in 1985. While in high school I was very actie in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and am currently serving as a state officer.

Throughout my life as a rancher I have learned a lot about the rapidly changing ways of the land, people and ranch life. I have decided to chose ranching as the career I wish to persue. I have chosen this career wanting to be given a fair chance to become a successful rancher. I realize that with the economy the way it is, this will be a hard struggle. I feel that the expansion of wilderness areas is decreasing the chances a rancher has to become successful. Therefore, I am strongly opposed to wilderness expansion.

Respectfully yours,

Vincent E Mendive

Vincent E. Mendive

What a better way to look at a situation than through the eyes of the people experiencing it. But often people have different ways of looking at things and therefore, from different opinions. I feel this is what has happened in this case.

I respect and appreciate the fact that you, the members of this panel, are taking the time to get the opinion of the people who have to deal and live with the decisions that are made in Washington, D.C.

I do have one question. Does the opinion of the public really matter when it comes to the decision making? Are the people thought of when you vote or are you thinking of the political party you are representing. Whatever the answer may be, I hope that it is the people who are thought of when the vote is taken. Especially those who will be affected by the Wilderness Bill.

How do the people feel about the Wilderness Bill? I have had the opportunity to speak with many ranchers in the Wildhorse area. I hope that what I am presenting to you will express the opinions of all I have spoken with.

As one rancher express well and I quote "A bunch of damned theives" meaning the prowilderness people. For the most part, ranchers feel that taking care of Nevada's economy is our number one priority. How can creating more Wilderness land help Nevada's economy? Isn't improvement what we are striving for. Limiting ranching and mining, two of Nevada's leading industries can not be in the best interests of the state. Members of the Sierra Club might say that these industries are not being limited, or even maybe that that is what they had planned. Whatever the the statement, I feel that they are only looking at their own interests and not those of the affected public.

As people go on throughout their lives, they should be preparing for the future, for themselves and for future generations. As I see it, it is hard enough for the young people of America to get started in these called "rought ways of life" without having the government decide that they want to take the rangeland and turn it into a Wilderness Area. I also feel that would affect mining claims that they would be turned into Wilderness Areas and the people

would be unable to work the claims.

Now what do you do. Sure you can still graze your cows but a few years up the road will the Sierra Club find ways of persuading the government that cattle should not be allowed to graze in the Wilderness areas. Or maybe they will sue for water rights as was done in Colorado.

The Sierra Club may feel they are looking at better conservation and preservation but what good is it to preserve the land. What are they saving it for, later use? Regarding conservation, the ranchers under good management has done a very commendable job of keeping the range in good shape. Properly managed rangeland stays in better condition than unused wilderness areas. When rangeland is ungrazed the grass and shrubs grow so thick that new growth is choked out. Grazed land keeps the older plants cut down giving young plants a chance to get roots established.

In review of my presentation. I would like to emphasis the following points:

1. I feel the viewpoint of the people should be strongly considered when deciding on increasing Wilderness Areas.
2. Will increasing the Wilderness Areas hurt or help Nevada's economy.
3. The increase of Wilderness Areas will make it difficult for future generation of ranchers and miners to maintain a level of success.
4. Range that is properly managed will stay in better condition than an unused Wilderness land.

In conclusion I feel that the 10 000 acres of current Wilderness land is more than sufficient for Nevada. To compromise I will support Senate Bill 3722.

Thank You.

Senator HECHT. Walter Gardner.

STATEMENT OF WALT GARDNER, ELKO, NV

Mr. GARDNER. My name is Walter Gardner and I am representing myself, two sisters, and one brother.

We oppose wilderness designation of our public lands, but particularly in the Ruby Mountains. We live in Ruby Valley on our parent's ranch. Our parents have taught us to love wildlife and respect the land. We would like to ranch ourselves some day.

In our short lifetime we have become increasingly aware of the propaganda by the Wildlife Federation and other environmental groups and even in our schools against sheep and cattle and business in general.

Now we hear that we must have wilderness in order to protect our most scenic lands. We believe these lands are protected as Forest Service and BLM lands.

We are aware that none of the wilderness bills say that livestock will be run off these areas or that we will lose our water rights, but we are keenly aware of the continuing compaign by environmentalists to remove enterprise from the public lands.

Designated wilderness will help them to accomplish their goals, their goals to take our rights from us; the right to carry on our livelihood as our parents and grandparents have; the right to the water that our livelihood depends on; our grazing rights and the right to enjoy hunting and fishing and outdoor recreation in a traditional manner.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. George Abegglen.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE C. ABEGGLEN, ELKO, NV

Mr. ABEGGLEN. Thank you Senator. On October 23, 1985, in this room I stated that I was 69 years old with a heart condition that prevents me from backpacking.

I asked Miss Valerie Weiner if the Reid-Sieberling bill was passed would I be able to use my four-wheel drive vehicle on the existing roads within the boundaries of the wilderness area. Miss Weiner assured me my questions would be forwarded to Mr. Reid.

In mid-November I received a letter from Mr. Reid. It was derogatory to the Elko Chamber of Commerce and Elko Free Press. Mr. Reid assured me that the Lamoille Canyon road would not be closed. However, he did not answer my question, "Will I or will I not be able to use my vehicle on the now existing roads if the Reid-Sieberling bill is passed?"

A letter received by Mr. Riles of Sparks, NV—a cousin—from Mr. Reid, stated in part that 3.6 million acres of roadless areas in Nevada national forests will remain de facto wilderness until Congress acts to designate wilderness lands and releases the remaining acres. Mr. Reid also stated that mine claims filed are protected and areas with roads have been excluded from his proposal.

The insidious thing is these roads are being referred to as "ways" w-a-y-s, and all of us, young, old; firm or infirm will be denied the vehicular access to these ways. Mr. Reid's definition of a road is one that is mechanically constructed and mechanically maintained.

If I may, let me paraphrase a statement by Winston Churchill of the Royal Air Force. He said, "Never in history of human conflict have so many owed so much to so few."

If this Reid-Sieberling bill is enacted into law then we can say never in the history of Nevada, has so much been denied so many for so few. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. You've become a philosopher I see.

Deloyd Satterthwaite.

STATEMENT OF DELOYD SATTERTHWAITE, ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. SATTERTHWAITE. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee and ladies and gentlemen. My name is Deloyd Satterthwaite, Tuscarora, NV, Ellison Ranching Co., and today I am a representative of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify here in Elko, NV and the time and interest you people are taking to come here and receive this testimony on a firsthand basis and also at the location where it's all going to happen.

First, I would like to state, we the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, do support the Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt wilderness bill. We are not opposed to all wilderness but we do object to the vast acreage that is being suggested.

I have been told one person can eat an elephant but must eat it in pieces and one bite at a time. It's impossible to devour all that at one sitting. I think that's true of the gigantic piece of wilderness. I think we have to take it one bite and one piece at a time and not by thousands upon thousands of acres and not by one gigantic piece of legislation.

I think you will agree with me that mistakes can be made, even by politicians and to consider legislation as others have proposed with a vast number of acres I believe would come back to haunt us and you in the future.

The Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt bill takes a more down-to-earth approach. It addresses the issues that are of concern to us here in Nevada—water rights, access, keeping up improvements and so on.

Many times legislation goes in the front door but when it comes out the back door you hardly recognize it as the same bill. Let's make sure the wilderness bill we get is a good one, not only for the State of Nevada, but also for those people who depend on it for their livelihood. If it is necessary to have wilderness, we do support the Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt bill.

I would like to make one more point about it. I am an appointed wildlife commissioner to represent livestock and during the testimony that was given by Mr. Erickson, I think it should be brought out and part of the record that although he stated that the policy of the department and commission was in favor of the Reid-Sieberling wilderness bill plus other designated areas that they so chose, they got that on a 4-to-3 vote. Being a member of that commission we tried to make the department and the rest of the commission realize that due to the resolution passed by the State legislature, maybe a State agency should follow the directions of the Governor who signed the bill who appointed them and follow the will of the

people who passed the resolution in the State legislature. However, that was not the case. I do want part of the record to show that the vote was 4 to 3 so they did not unanimously want the Reid-Sieberling bill. However, when I tried to get the bill and testimony across that we did support your piece of legislation and we were defeated on that issue. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Just a couple of statements: Vince and Walt, don't worry about your age. You speak very well and make a lot of commonsense more than all those eastern Congressmen who got us into all this. Keep up the good work and we are happy to see generation after generation of ranchers.

Vernon, Dalton, I think he's supposed to testify here, I had my entire staff out at his ranch last year and that ranch has been in his family for 100 years and I am glad to see you are keeping up the tradition, I don't have any questions for these men. Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No questions.

Senator HECHT. We will take a 5-minute break to give the reporter a rest.

[Recess taken.]

Senator HECHT. Would everyone come back in and we will resume the hearing. Would everyone come in and take their seats.

We will continue with panel No. 4. Roy Jones, Merlin McColm, Robert McGinty, Jack Walthers, and Alan Wasner. Let's start off. Congresswoman Vucanovich is not here but she will be right back. Roy Jones.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROY G. JONES, ELKO, NV

Dr. JONES. Senator, my name is Roy Jones otherwise known as a physician. I have been backpacking here locally in Elko and I have brought letters from community members who are in support of the comments I am going to make and I think the evidence can be the decisive issue in the State of Nevada and I think it is important to note that these meetings are therefore timely. I think it's to your credit, members of this committee and especially Senator Hecht, that you've scheduled these meetings. I personally feel appreciative that you are allowing me the opportunity to speak.

As a recreational enthusiast who has been actively involved in hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing, I find myself in opposition to your Senate bill. I think it includes far to few acres.

Second, two of the most beautiful mountain ranges that are in the State of Nevada, the Ruby Mountains and the South Snake Range were completely omitted from your bill. The Rubys are only 20 miles south of here and were excluded from your bill and I think those were omissions of major magnitude. The testimony here this morning by the ranchers and miners are primarily opposed to wilderness designation. I am speaking specifically about the Ruby Mountains because I am most familiar with them but I think my comments are applicable to all these mountains. The Humboldt National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan has this to say, "Grazing by domestic livestock is of secondary importance to this area. The rugged terrain and lack of access to the forest precludes it from every being critical to the livestock indus-

try." The resource plan goes on to say, "There is little mineralization known to occur in the unit and there are no existing operating plans." In view of the statements by Government experts, why weren't the Ruby Mountains included in the wildlerness designation?

My father who is age 67 used to live here in Elko and went hiking with me several times. He has climbed to 11,000 feet on the Ruby Dome and is probably an exception at his age, but I do not feel the elderly and disabled are removed from enjoying these wilderness areas. According to Mr. Abegglen there are too many people who would not be able to do it and would be too old to want to enjoy this wilderness experience. I do not feel that the elderly and disabled are opposed to wilderness simply because they are unable to enjoy it. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fine who recently wrote a letter to the editor of the Reno Gazette Journal and the statement was, they feel the wilderness designation is an investment in the future.

A lot is mentioned about locking out but if we don't make this wilderness designation now we will be locking out future generations from some of the most beautiful, pristine areas in the West while most of their comments have to do with the here and now. I have a 3-year-old son and I want to be sure he has an opportunity to experience the same type of wilderness that I do.

Now in summary I would therefore urge the subcommittee to carefully consider your bill and support a bill to include more wilderness. I am personally in support of the bill of Senator Reid which I feel is entitled by all Americans.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Jones follows:]

Testimony of Roy G. Jones, M.D., representing myself before the Senate Public Land Subcommittee on Bill S.722, the Nevada Wilderness Bill, February 11, 1986.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Roy Jones and I am speaking today on behalf of myself concerning the Nevada Wilderness Bill which has been introduced in the Senate and about which I have considerable interest. The amount of discussion that this issue has produced within the state (and especially in the rural areas) has been considerable. These debates have been highly emotional and frequently have not been dealt with on a factual level. These hearings are, therefore, timely, and I think it is to the credit of the members of this committee, and especially Senator Hecht, that they have been scheduled.

I must say from the outset, and in spite of the fact that I am a conservative Republican living in rural Nevada, I am clearly opposed to S.722, which proposes for wilderness only 137,000 acres of Nevada's most beautiful National Forest Lands. Although the bill would designate wilderness areas which are geographically diverse, the amount of acreage proposed is far too little. As a recreational enthusiast who enjoys hiking, camping, hunting and fishing in the back county, I would hasten to point out that the two mountain ranges generally considered to be Nevada's most scenic ranges, the Ruby Mountains and the South Snake Range containing Mt. Wheeler, were completely omitted from this bill. By any measure, these are omissions of major magnitude.

It is my opinion that the meager amount of acreage proposed and the complete exclusion of these two mountain ranges has resulted in a bill that largely parallels the interests of the mining and ranching industries. Concerning the Ruby Mountains, about which I am most familiar, the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan has this to say:

> "Grazing by domestic livestock is of secondary importance on this area. The rugged terrain and, to a lesser extent, lack of access to the forest below the unit precludes it from ever being critical to the livestock industry."

The resource plan further states:

> "There is little mineralization known to occur in the unit and there are two existing operating plans."

In spite of these comments by government experts, the Ruby Mountains will not receive the protection they deserve if this bill is passed. The two groups mentioned above (miners and ranchers) would seem to have little basis for excluding the Rubies except for the general antipathy many have toward government control of public lands. To be fair, I would note that the mining industry did not originally oppose wilderness designation for the Rubies, which makes their exclusion even more curious.

My father and I have been hiking in the Rubies on numerous occasions and can attest to the fact that these mountains are among the most beautiful in the entire West, and they are, without question, representative of the pristine areas that the Wilderness Act of 1964 seeks to protect. The intent of wilderness designation is not to lock out people. Although my 67-year-old father, who has climbed to 11,000 feet on Ruby Dome, is probably an exception, I do not feel that the elderly and disabled are opposed to wilderness (as some opponents have claimed) simply because they are unable to enjoy it. They realize that the establishment of a strong wilderness system is an investment in the future.

As an outdoor enthusiast, my feelings about this particular wilderness bill are, indeed, personal; but I am also concerned about future generations who may not have the opportunity to enjoy these lands unless appropriate action is instituted today. To say that omitting wilderness designation for these sensitive areas would not significantly change their character for future generations is to deny what has occurred to Nevada's public lands in the past under existing land use policies. The passage of much stronger bill will not lock out ranchers, as their grazing rights are preserved. Nor will the miners be expelled from any known significant mineralization areas. The passage of a stronger bill would, however, protect for all Americans, present and future, Nevada's most beautiful lands. As a side benefit, the increase in tourism may well be beneficial to the local economy.

I do not believe the 1964 Wilderness Act meant to exclude the state of Nevada, which seemingly has occurred with S.722. The 137,000 acreas proposed are far to little. The amended bill now being considered in the House of Representatives, in my opinion, more effectively addresses the needs of all Americans, Nevadans and non-Nevadans alike, who are, in fact, the owners of these valuable lands. I do not believe that the best and most valuable use of public lands gives priority to those activities which bring about monetary gain to a few private individuals, particularly when those activities have the potential for permanently scarring these areas.

I would, therefore, urge the subcommittee to carefully consider the issues involved and pass a much stronger bill that considers the needs of all Americans, both in and out of our state, present and future.

Thank you very much.

ROY G. JONES, M.D.

[illegible] Ruby View Dr
[illegible] 89801

February 11, 1986

Senate Public Lands Subcommittee

Re: Bill S.722
Nevada Wilderness Bill

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I recently moved to Nevada, and on my arrival I was struck by two observations. One was the awe-inspiring beauty of Nevada's mountains, and the other was the economic base of Northeastern Nevada.

Nevada has vast and largely uninhabited federal lands which may seem expendable to the westerner who has come to take the luxury of unspoiled terrain for granted. As a former mid-westerner, I assure you that the majority of the nation has never had the opportunity to experience such splendid solitude, much less take it for granted. I am sure you recognize that the need for wildnerness retreats will grow as the nation's population density increases. I view the establishment of wildnerness areas as an important investment for the future of my children and coming generations will find such areas increasingly rare and in demand. I see the establishment of representative wilderness areas as a major and urgent obligation of our generation.

Turning to the question of Northeastern Nevada's economic base, one quickly notices that the majority of the population is directly or indirectly involved in mining or cattle ranching. Relying so heavily on mining, an industry whose product will eventually be exhausted, and cattle ranching, an industry that is seeing a progressive decline in its products per capita use due to health reasons, is a trend which should be temporized by the encouragement of economic bases which are reuseable and which have expanding demand. The establishment of wilderness areas fills this requirement.

I therefore request that the Subcommittee, in fulfilling their obligation to function as a federal governmental unit acting in the interest of the nation as a whole and not to specific special groups, pass a bill which includes a larger proportion of Nevada as wilderness area than the 137,000 acres now being considered.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

RAJones

Roger A. Jones, M.D.

RAJ:ca

CHRISTOPHER H. WARD, M.D.
[illegible]
32-E. Spring Creek Parkway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Senator Hecht:

I am writing to support wilderness designation for the Ruby Mountains. Although their aesthetic value is paramount, I will confine my arguments to economics.

Nevada is a state which depends heavily on tourism and recreation, but in spite of the fact that it possesses great natural beauty, in the minds of most americans it is a wasteland of deserts punctuated only by casinos and brothels. Most families would not consider Nevada if they were looking for a wholesome nature-oriented vacation. The Ruby mountains have all the attributes necessary for high quality outdoor recreation; they are beautified, uncrowded, and so far unscarred by roads, mining or timber cutting; and they have none of the disadvantages of some other areas considered for wilderness designation; there is no commercially valuable timber, minerals or grazing land to be lost. In fact wilderness designation for the Rubies would enhance Nevada's public image and provide a boom to tourism in the Wells - Elko area with no significant economic losses; exclusion of the Rubies from the wilderness bill is just plain bad business.

CHWard

January 29, 1986

The Honorable Chic Hecht
Room 297, Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

I am writing to urge you to support Representative Reid's Wilderness Bill. I believe that the bill proposed by you in conjunction with the other representatives of Nevada is woefully inadequate in preserving some of the priceless legacy of Nevada lands for our children and grandchildren. In particular, I have strong objection to your exclusion of the Ruby Mountains and Mt. Moriah from wilderness designation. I believe Representative Reid's bill represents much more of a true compromise between blatantly pro developmental mining interests and arch environmentalists.

Please reconsider your position.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Hogle M.D.
--ca--

David M. Hogle,M.D.

DMH:ca

Senator HECHT. Merlin McColm.

STATEMENT OF MERLIN McCOLM, ON BEHALF OF THE ELKO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. MCCOLM. My name is Merlin McColm. I live here in Elko, NV, and represent the Elko County Conservation Association. I am a certified wildlife biologist and I've lived here in Nevada for 30 years and I am a retired biologist.

The Elko County Conservation Association is opposed to S. 722. We do support the park and wilderness provisions contained in House bill H.R. 3302 which has additional recommendations for the Nevada wilderness.

Roy covered the situation about locking up the areas in wilderness, so I will skip that but in all the arguments against wilderness, I've never heard one word of concern for wildlife habitat. Every day because of human population expansion that in a highly restrictive sense owns all big game census. With increased population the Government does not get a better wilderness situation.

According to the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Association elk do best in this type of environment. Nevada sportsmen have all the guarantees of this aspect they need. A representative of the Nevada Mining Association attending a hearing in October stated the Sierra Club was out to close the wilderness areas to hunting. It's fabrications and distortions like these that all to often characterize the wilderness opposition. There are those who are opposed to hunting and love to ski and many who voice objections consider themselves good sportsmen.

A local resident who had just returned from the hunting of a lifetime in the wilderness area in Idaho, in the same conversation, he stated he was opposed to more wilderness in Nevada. It should be remembered that some of the outstanding wilderness parks we have in the West were bitterly opposed and when related wilderness we presently have when they were next to impossible when they were first created and we would be poor as a people and a nation if we would be without them.

In closing I would like to quote a great American Indian chief, he stated, "These lands belong to our people, some are dead, some are living but most have not been born." The reason for preservation of the pristine wilderness in our State is vital to all of us.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McColm follows:]

TESTIMONY OF MERLIN MCCOLM BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
REGARDING S. 722 -- ELKO, NEVADA, FEBRUARY 11, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. My name is Merlin McColm. I am from Elko, Nevada and am representing the Elko County Conservation Association. I am a graduate of Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and am a Certified Wildlife Biologist by the Wildlife Society. I have worked for the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. I have lived in Nevada for over 30 years. I retired as a biologist in 1980 and am now self-employed as a small businessman in Elko, Nevada. I have worked and traveled over many of the wildlands of North America and Africa. As a pilot biologist I have logged hundreds of hours in the air on game surveys over most of Nevada. During the 24 years I spent working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, I conducted range surveys over many areas in the State.

When I first arrived in Nevada as a young biologist I had been working in Alaska. I did not know exactly what to expect, except that I knew it was a dry state and there was a lot of desert. At that time I considered the most spectacular wilderness areas left in North America to be in Alaska, Northern Canada and portions of the Rocky Mountain West outside Nevada. What I found in Nevada was the most startling, spectacular, hauntingly beautiful, wild and often game-rich areas, I had ever seen in North America. Aside from the sense of remoteness, much of their appeal is based on widely differing and isolated land forms. Those areas are like islands in a sea. There is striking contrast

between the drab monotony of the playas and sagebrush covered foothills of the lower elevations and the varied and sometimes lush vegetation of the Transition, Canadian, Hudsonion and Alpine-Arctic Life-Zones. The fauna is no less rich and varied. These areas are generally small when compared to some well known wilderness areas in surrounding states. This, however, is a good argument for their protection.

A short time after I went to work in Nevada I realized its natural wonders were largely unknown outside the State. Man's rush for the riches of California in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century left Nevada a backwater, populated by a few tenacious ranchers and miners. This is how rural Nevada remained for the next 100 years. Because of a unique set of fortunate circumstances that has resulted in Nevada's delayed development, we now have the opportunity to evaluate some of these fragile wilderness gems in the light of increasing environmental awareness. There are probably few times in the average persons life where they have the opportunity to work for a cause that will make a significant contribution for good that will transcend their own existence. I firmly believe that the opportunity to set aside the wilderness areas in Nevada contained in H. R. 3302 with the proposed additions made by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, is one such opportunity.

Most Nevadans that live in Elko County are outdoors people. They love the wildlands and the recreation they provide. Rural Nevada has always had plenty of open space and wildlands. Until recently it seemed rather pointless to designate specific areas as Wilderness as Nevada had so much defacto wilderness. Many rural Nevadans wonder why things can't remain as in the past, without the wilderness designation and their cumbersome restrictions. However, the world is changing and Nevada is changing with it.

Thirty years ago a person needed a horse to cover much of Nevada's back country. No more. The proliferation of four-wheel drives, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, ultra-light aircraft and helicopters make it possible to reach every nook and cranny of the State in a few minutes or a few hours at most. Population projections for Nevada indicate we could be a state of several million people by 2010 with a corresponding increase in demand for high quality outdoor recreation. In this fast growing state, Elko County is the fastest growing of the 17 counties. With this human population expansion, land use problems are accelerating. Any sensitive person that has seen the ravages of a large open pit mining operation would want to spare our most beautiful wild areas from this fate. Improper livestock grazing over extensive areas of Nevada's public lands are also a continuing threat. Wilderness status improves the chances for a better livestock management program.

It is the reluctance of some rural Nevadans to recognize and accept these changes that make it hard for them to see the necessity of a significant expansion of the wilderness system in Nevada. Most of these lands for the past 120 years have been almost the exclusive domain of the miner and livestock operator. Little consideration has been given to other users. Naturally, mining and livestock interests are going to oppose any proposal that see as a threat to their dominance. It was this same feeling that spawned the "Sagebrush Rebellion", has blocked the introduction of elk into the Jarbidge Wilderness Area and largely curtailed a riparian habitat restoration program designed to increase water flows, restore vegetation, conserve soil and save trout streams.

Local fear and resentment against wilderness designation in Elko County has been fueled and ascerbated by one of the local newspapers with slanted, biased, and sometimes inaccurate reporting. United States Forest Service employees are sometimes referred to as "Green Hornets" and the local state biologists as the "Dead Fish Experts", and anyone with an expressed interest in the environment as an "Ecology Nut". This attitude among a few local influential leaders and politicians is more than benign. Several years ago the Nevada State Cattlemen's Association tried to have a state biologist removed from his job because he showed a slide program showing the damaging effects of improper livestock grazing on public lands. To this day most state and federal employees concerned with natural resource management and even many of those in the business community are afraid to speak out in favor of conservation programs for fear of reprisal. This has effectively eviscerated many meaningful range, wildlife and watershed programs.

I give the committee this background information so they can better understand the climate which spawned the opposition to a more extensive wilderness proposal in Nevada and in particular Elko County.

In Elko County there is considerable support for a strong wilderness bill that would include the Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt Range, more extensive wilderness in the Jarbidge Mountains and the inclusion of Elk Mountain.

I would like to point out that not all ranchers in Elko County are opposed to additional wilderness. Those ranchers contacted during a Congressional tour at the Jarbidge site reacted favorably to the expanded wilderness proposal. These were people that had 20 years experience working with the U. S. Forest Service within the wilderness system. I know of ranchers in the vicinity of

the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range that also support a much stronger bill than that proposed by S. 722. . . I have letters from some of these ranchers with me today.

Opponents for a more comprehensive wilderness proposal than the present senate bill often state that administration by the U. S. Forest Service under multiple use management is fair to everyone and that this is the way these lands should continue to be managed. In theory this sounds fine but in practice it is the dominate user that prevails -- often at considerable loss to other users.

The dominate users on National Forest lands in Elko County and most of rural Nevada are the mining and livestock interests. As a natural resource professional, I spent many years battling to save or restore wildlife habitat. I can tell you there were few successes outside the interests of these two industries. This statement is truer today than it was 5 years ago as a result of the emasculation of many range and wildlife programs by the current administration. By not designating wilderness status to a few of the most outstanding areas we have in Nevada, we are saying we do not care enough about our natural heritage to pass it onto future generations. All present wilderness and wilderness proposals in Elko County total about 449 square miles or about 2.6% of the total land area of 17,181 square miles. Considering only National Forest and National Resource lands, the total would still be less than 4% wilderness.

S. 722 is very inadequate and exempts the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range which with its alpine lakes, rugged snow-capped peaks and unique forms of wildlife are the finest examples of high elevation Great Basin wilderness in Nevada.

Some species of wildlife, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, elk, and Himalayan snow partridge demand a wilderness situation. The proposed wilderness areas need our protection now to protect critical habitat. It was always hard for me to find sufficient adjectives to describe a truly grand natural wonder and so it is with the East Humboldt Range and Ruby Mountains. (They are really one mountain range bisected by a low pass.) They remind me somewhat of the Northern Rockies in British Columbia or a minature of the Tetons. It's all there -- the glacial valleys, lakes, crystal-clear streams, spectacular alpine and sub-alpine scenery. It's enough to say they are totally grand. Here there is excellent fishing. It's home for many species of wildlife including the mule deer, Rocky Mountain goat, mountain lion, blue grouse, sage grouse, ruffed grouse, chukar partridge, Himalayan snow cock as well as numerous species of non-game animals and birds. Three species, the Rocky Mountain goat,ruffed grouse and Himalayan snow cock, are found in no other area in Nevada. The snow cock is found in no other place in the western hemisphere. The combination of species of wildlife make this area not only unique in Nevada but in the world. The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep also existed here within the memory of man. Recent improvement in summer ranges would make this species a prime candidate for reintroduction. Wilderness status would go a long way toward insuring this eventuality. Even with the sterling qualifications that this area offers for wilderness status, S. 722 omits the East Humboldt Range and the Ruby Mountains from its recommendations. In our opinion S. 722 is worse than inadequate. It's flagrantly anti-wilderness.

The existing Jarbidge Wilderness contains some of the finest and most extensive game range in Nevada. The proposed additions include the surrounding peaks, tablelands, canyons, and forests needed to complement the central peaks and protect wildlife habitats. It's an outdoorsman's dream and contains some of the finest trout fishing and mule deer hunting in the State. The rare California bighorn sheep was re-introduced here a few years ago and Rocky Mountain elk and sharp-tailed grouse have been proposed for reintroduction.

Improved management by the U. S. Forest Service and livestock operators has resulted in spectacular range recovery during the past 25 years.

Elk Mountain, which is a separate proposal from the Jarbidge Additions, is actually part of the Jarbidge system but lies a few miles east of the heart of the present wilderness. Its rolling steppes give way to aspen, mountain mahogany and alpine fir at the high elevations. It is spectacular game country where there is an abundance of deer, antelope, and sage grouse. Blue grouse are also found here in limited numbers. At one time Rocky Mountain elk were reported to exist in this area. We feel strongly that the Elko Mountain wilderness proposal would complement the existing Jarbidge Wilderness and its additions.

Central Nevada has its share of particularly deserving areas for wilderness status. The Arc Dome and Mount Jefferson areas are of particular significance. They are utterly magnificent monuments to wilderness with their nearly 12,000 foot peaks and wild bighorn sheep.

Table Mountain is a totally different type of wilderness than either Arc Dome or Mount Jefferson. It is a large tilted block limestone table that extends upward from the desert floor to elevations in excess of 10,000 feet. It's really a large mesa with undulating hills covered with aspen, mountain mahogany and small forest of limber pine. It's park-like appearance gives it a fairyland type of appeal -- a world above the world. Its awesome isolation and expanse are overwhelming. It's great game country and provides excellent grazing for livestock now that the U. S. Forest Service has gone into an intensive livestock management program. Rocky Mountain elk have been introduced here. The vegetative condition of the range is now greatly improved. It wasn't always so. One of the previous owners of a ranch, that had a livestock permit on Table Mountain and Mount Jefferson, confided to me that he had a permit for 3,000 head of cattle but actually ran twice that many. That was back in the 1950's and things have changed on "The Table".

A short time ago I was talking to a friend of mine who lives in Central Nevada about some of our outdoor experiences. Twenty-five years ago we had spent a couple of days camping together at the head of Mosquito Creek on Table Mountain. One evening we rode along the top of "The Table" and dropped into the head of Cottonwood Creek counting several hundred mule deer as we rode through the quakies and the open park lands. We caught a few pan-sized brook trout in the clear, cold pools of Cottonwood Creek which we cooked over an open fire. In the course of our recent conversation he said, "You know, I have never been back to 'The Table' but I can tell you that was one of the most memorable experiences of my life."

My friend's comment is the sum total and essence of wilderness. Intangible, difficult to articulate, but utterly necessary to many of us to add balance, perspective and stimulation to our lives. We are absolutely obligated to see that these opportunities are passed on. To quote a great American indian chief -- "These lands belong to our people, some are dead, some are living, but most have not been born yet."

In closing I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. Nevada is a fast-growing state and Elko County has the most rapidly expanding human population of any county in the State. Even now there is more demand on many of our wildlife species and other renewable natural resources than these beautiful but fragile lands can provide. These lands belong to everyone in this great nation and we believe their preservation in a pristine state is vital to the welfare of future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Merlin A. McColm

Robert McGinty.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT McGINTY, ELKO, NV

Mr. McGINTY. Thank you, Senator Hecht and committee staff. My name is Robert McGinty. I am a fourth generation Nevadan and a resident of Elko. I am convinced that the Senate wilderness bill, S. 722, is inadequate. I strongly support the establishment of those wilderness areas included in H.R. 3302.

One of the feeblest arguments against wilderness is that it will lock up the land, fence it off from the ordinary citizen, make wilderness a private reserve for the wealthy elite.

This argument is designed to appeal to the fear of local residents. Hunters are told that they will no longer be able to hunt; ranchers, that they will be driven out of business. This is nonsense.

Under the Humboldt Forest Plan, for instance, no reductions in AUM's will result if an area is managed as wilderness. Further, I have heard—as recently as last week—that Idaho ranchers have either lost their allotments or been driven out of business because they either grazed on or adjacent to wilderness areas. I have investigated these rumors with the Forest Service in Idaho and found that although it is true that some ranchers have abandoned allotments in or near wilderness areas, other factors, not wilderness, were the problem.

Hunters have been told that the ultimate goal of wilderness is to close those areas to hunting. There is neither logic nor fact in this argument. I hunt in areas that have been proposed as wilderness, in the Rubies and East Humboldts, and I am confident that the best way to preserve the quality of hunting in these areas is to designate them as wilderness.

Not only are grazing and hunting guaranteed under the Wilderness Act; the concept of multiple use is preserved. Of course, those uses that would destroy the wild character of an area would be prohibited, but grazing, hunting, trapping, fishing, horseback riding, camping, skiing, hiking—all will continue.

The argument has also been made that only a few elite backpackers will use lands recommended as wilderness. This argument ignores the facts. The Ruby Mountain Scenic Area, part of which is being recommended for wilderness in Congressman Reid's bill, is used heavily. For instance, according to the Forest Service statistics, over 12,000 hikers, 3,000 horseback riders, 1,100 nature study, and 1,000 hunter visitor days were recorded in the Ruby Mountain Scenic Area in 1984.

The wilderness character of the Ruby Mountains and other wild areas around the State is highly valued by many. The arguments against wilderness are based on half-truths, rumor, distortion and have their roots in the fear of change.

But Nevada is changing and growing rapidly and one of the things that we must change is our land ethic. Only a strong wilderness bill, one that includes the Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt, and other areas designated in H.R. 3302 will guarantee that the best of our unspoiled lands, a resource we have had the luxury of taking for granted, will remain as they are for my children and all our children. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.
Jack Walthers.

STATEMENT OF JACK WALTHERS, LAMOILLE, NV

Mr. WALTHERS. My name is Jack Walthers and I live in Lamoille, NV, and my area of concern is the Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt. Too many are called the Humboldts and the Forest Service calls the east of Secret Pass the east of the Humboldt Range. So many people here speaking of the Ruby Mountains are, I am sure, intending to include the East Humboldts. I am a conservationist and I am against any wilderness in the Ruby Mountains. In the East Humboldt Range I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

I am a lifelong resident of the Ruby Mountains. My grandfather settled south of the Ruby Mountains in the 1970's and I've worked in the Ruby Mountains. I've managed the 71 Ranch for John Marvel at Secret Pass which is also east of the Humboldt Range and I have been there over 18 years. I've experienced range improvements and cattle. In my lifetime there has been a change in the range in the areas I am familiar with and especially since the Lloyd Sorenson became a ranch in this area. The grass and graze is very much better and deer more plentiful. Although raised in the mountains, I was 14 years old before I ever saw a deer and now there's deer in there by the thousands and it's not uncommon around the Soldier Creek area to ride one-half mile in the evening and see 100 deer. Fishing is good and you can see dust almost any time going up there to Soldier Camp where people are fishing and still fishing is better and the range is improving—has been improving under the multi-use concept. I am sure this couldn't have been possible under the wilderness designation. You have to be ready to meet changing conditions. If you are not going to do that you are not going to improve—your wilderness is the status quo. If you are sitting still, you are actually going backward. I feel that wilderness will hurt the hunters, fishing, livestock, and economy of the area and of the whole Nation.

Thank you.
Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Alan Wasner.

STATEMENT OF ALAN R. WASNER, ELKO, NV

Mr. WASNER. Good morning. My name is Alan Wasner. I've lived here in Elko for 6 years. I am here today to express my strong support for Congressman Reid's wilderness bill.

I don't represent anyone but myself and I am not a Sierra Club member. I am a Nevadan and I want to say how proud I am to be a Nevadan. That is, right up until someone asks me just how much designated wilderness we have here. If you look at the surrounding States and the literally millions of acres of wilderness, not to mention national and State parks, you can't help but wonder why Nevada doesn't have more.

Most of the areas in question already are wilderness without being federally designated as such, so why designate them as wilderness? Well, I've seen what can happen to unprotected areas. Suddenly one day you find out that someone is building a road or

driving up and down the side of the mountain with a bulldozer in the name of mining exploration and your beautiful untouched area suddenly is no more.

Nevada is the fastest growing State in the Nation and unless we set aside a few small areas such as those designated in Harry Reid's bill, in time—one by one—these areas will cease to exist as wilderness. Mechanized recreation has already seized 99 percent of the valleys and mountains of Nevada. Why not set aside the remaining 1 percent of the land as areas undisturbed by man?

Almost every argument I've heard against wilderness is completely based on misinformation. It is obvious that few people are aware of the contents of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Time and time again I've heard it said that wilderness designation will lock up the land and yet how can it when fire control, livestock grazing, water rights, the best establishment of water projects and access to ownership of private land are specifically guaranteed by the Wilderness Act. Mining is allowed to continue on patented claims and the helioski operation will not be affected as the boundaries have been greatly changed to accommodate it.

All wilderness will mean is that on the very few jeep trails in these areas you will no longer be able to drive. That still leaves the other 99 percent of the land for motorized recreation. Do we really need to drive to every single scenic or recreational site in Nevada? I don't think so. Will the people 100 years from now think that one million acres of wilderness in Nevada was enough? I doubt it. In the crowded world of the future I bet they'll either thank you for what little wilderness you designate or condemn you for not designating enough. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Senator HECHT. Just so we know exactly what we are talking about let me differentiate between the bills. One was 137,000 acres. The U.S. Forest Service proposal are upwards of 400,000 acres. The Reid bill as introduced was around 700,000 acres. Then the Reid bill was amended and reported out with 100,000 acres and the Sieberling bill with 1.4 million acres. Mr. McGinty and Dr. Jones, is it your feeling that the Reid bill as reported is the right bill or the Reid bill as introduced originally?

Dr. JONES. I think the Reid bill as amended is the one I favor. I think the idea of a national park was added to it, was belated and not well thought out, but I think it's a good idea, also it's one of those things I wish I had thought of.

Senator HECHT. We had quite a hearing on that yesterday in Ely and the difference fell to Mo Udall, Congressman from Arizona and a very, very great conservationist for years and years. He faulted it because he has never heard of Washington telling a local area about a national park without hearing from the local area first. I thought it should be done the other way. How do you feel about it?

Dr. JONES. I would agree. I think it wasn't well thought out. It was his complaint that prompted me to say that. I don't think it should have been tacked on that bill in that way. That's my own personal feeling but I am sure others won't agree. I have not been down there. Dr. Charles Ellis has described the area to me and you can bet I am going down there. I would like to see it as a national park. It would allow more people to enjoy it.

Senator HECHT. Do you think it should be two separate bills or included in this bill a question I asked yesterday?

Dr. JONES. I think it should be two separate bills. I think we could convert it to the wilderness area and then later to a national park.

Senator HECHT. Mr. McGinty, how do you feel about it?

Mr. MCGINTY. I would agree with Dr. Jones on that.

Senator HECHT. And Reid's bill is one you are in favor of?

Mr. MCGINTY. Given only a few choices, yes, I think so. I believe there is more Forest Service lands in it. One of the things brought up at the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM have recommendations pending also. I think the Forest Service lands, some of which are not on this bill, are the very best of Nevada lands. I think some of the BLM lands and some of the Fish and Wildlife Service lands are not as good in character as some of the ones we have in the Forest Service bill. I think this encompasses the best lands in the State and not necessarily the BLM lands. The National Park Service will also have a bill, so we are looking at three more wilderness bills we have to address.

Senator HECHT. Is the Park Service looking at a wilderness or a park bill?

Mr. MCGINTY. We don't have it yet, but I've got it——

Senator HECHT. I thought in Ohio where Congressman Sieberling is from, they had some but there's no wilderness at all. But I did point this out yesterday, Congressman Sieberling, who has been pushing so much wilderness for our State, has in his own State a wildlife refuge with 77 acres of wilderness. The wilderness in the State of Ohio was established in 1975, established within the Wildlife Refuge. Congressman Sieberling wanted to create 18,000 times this amount in Nevada. He was out here and I was on a helicopter with him for three days. I asked him why don't you have any wilderness in your own State and I never got a statisfactory answer.

Mr. MCGINTY. I am sure Ohio waited too long; that's what I think. That is, Senator, I believe that by the time this was thought up, by the time he saw the necessity to preserve some of our lands, it was too late in many States but it's not too late in Nevada, though.

Senator HECHT. I am sure as we get into other areas there are a lot of people voicing the same sentiment as you here in Elko.

Dr. JONES. May I make a comment? I realize the BLM is going to have some additional recommendations.

Senator HECHT. Let me get these recommendations they are studying.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. 4.3 million acres.

Senator HECHT. What are they recommending?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well it isn't done yet.

Senator HECHT. So right now they are studying 4.3 million acres?

Dr. JONES. I am relatively new to the State. I have only been here 3 years, but it's my impression that the lands that are most valuable or most worthy of a designation are in the National Forest System.

Mr. MCGINTY. BLM, I would be happy to designate all national forests and leave BLM land because the mountains in the national forests are much more enjoyable from my standpoint. I would not

want you to save much wilderness acreage or BLM land when I think there is much more worthy areas than BLM.

Senator HECHT. I understand but we will have to face that down the line. There is still no question about it.

Mr. MCGINTY. Several of us here belong to the Conservation Association which we started this year. We have established the Elko area represented in addressing two of their wilderness studies here whether because we did not feel they merited wilderness designation areas. I am not speaking for everyone but I really think BLM lands are not as strong for wilderness designation as the Forest Service and we maybe sacrificing the best.

Senator HECHT. Barbara, do you have any thing?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes, Senator, I would like to ask a question, an almost rhetorical question, of Mr. McGinty.

I notice in your testimony, you were talking about the lands that would be included in the wilderness bill that you support and made the point that it would guarantee the best of our unspoiled lands would be withdrawn. My question, I guess, is do you really think that the point of this is to take the best land away from the people in the State and use them just as wilderness? Is that not a very selfish, really elitist attitude from the few people who could use it? When you take the best of the lands away from the people, that's very unfair and very selfish.

Mr. MCGINTY. I guess I'm sorry you misunderstand that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I don't understand. I don't misunderstand it at all.

Mr. MCGINTY. You do, because I don't think we are taking it away from anybody. I don't think we are locking it up from anybody. Those lands are open to every citizen. I don't think that armed guards from the Federal Government are going to stand and keep hikers out. I don't think that's true. I don't think we are locking these lands up.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. You are keeping the best only for those people who are to use those lands.

Mr. MCGINTY. I am certain there are some people who are physically unable to get in those lands, that's not my point and I don't deny that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. It's not opening it to all the people.

Mr. MCGINTY. Most of us got here on our own two feet and most of them could get in those areas too.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I don't agree with you. I don't think that's a fair statement. In any event I just wanted to ask you that question. We obviously disagree but I think it's very much an elitist use of the land. I have no further questions, Senator. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Let's go on now to panel five. Bill Nisbet, Jerry Stocks, Roberta Skelton, Marian Sorensen. Now, if the next panel, six, would take their seats up here in the front. That's Charles Salsman, Tom Porter, William Lassetter, Fran Gergwall, Borden Putnam, and John Omernik, and you can hand over statements so we will have them when you testify.

Let's move along; Bill are you ready?

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM A. NISBET, ELKO, NV

Mr. NISBET. Thank you, Senator and members of the panel for listening to another today.

I am William A. Nisbet, resident of Elko, NV, since 1959. For the first 6 years of that I was employed by the State agency charged with management of its fish and wildlife resources and then until the present date affiliated with a civil engineering and land surveying firm in general practice in northern Nevada.

I support S. 722 because I feel its authors are aware of the preferences of the citizens of the State for a maximum level of participation in the planning for uses of all the land within its boundaries. I would be more enthusiastic today if I knew this hearing was the final step in such a land designation process. And I would prefer to hope that the decisions to come from these hearings would settle for all time the amount of land to be placed in the museum-like wilderness system. But I know I an commenting on only one of what may be endless proposals for inclusion of additional land.

With such a small percent of Nevada's lands in fee ownership, it has been a survival necessity that a portion of the wealth to support us all should come from public lands administered in a multiservice public lands.

At the same time, I believe that far more acreage than that proposed in even the most all encompassing wilderness designation proposal will remain just that, without the encumbering classification.

The 1964 sweeping designation of millions of acres of land in the West should have been, in my opinion, the final step in such setting aside of great land tracts. Therefore I urge this Committee to proceed cautiously in adding to that total. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Bill.

Jerry Stocks. Jerry Stocks has not answered so we will go to Roberta Skelton.

STATEMENT OF ROBERTA SKELTON, ELKO, NV

Ms. SKELTON. Thank you, Senator Hecht and chairman of the committee and ladies and gentleman.

My name is Roberta Skelton and I live at 641 Juniper Street, Elko, NV with my husband Joe. I am a native of Elko County and in particular Jarbidge, NV. This is a summary of my written testimony. I speak for myself and the residents of Jarbidge.

I have written to the congressional delegation prior to this hearing and philosophically my position, along with theirs has not changed. We are not in favor of any wilderness expansion and in particular Congressman Reid. However, if a compromise has to be taken, the majority will support Senators Hecht and Laxalt's version of S. 722 along with Representative Barbara Vucanovich with the following requested modifications: We have grave concerns that the Jarbidge watershed is affected in the present proposal. The Jarbidge water supply forms at the headwaters of Bear Creek. I gave Senator Hecht a picture of that area. The Jarbidge watershed is comprised of Fox Creek, Pine Creek, Jarbidge Lake, Mary's River, as well as all of the creeks and tributaries draining into the Jar-

bidge River. Therefore, we are requesting the proposed line be withdrawn back to Jarbidge Lake along the south to the present wilderness boundary, then withdrawn to run along Fox Creek and Pine Creek Peaks but exclude the watersheds, fence again could be extended to Coon Creek Peak, but excluded Bear Creek Summit, Bear Creek meadows and all points and land in between. The South Canyon Road from Snowslide Gulch to the present wilderness boundary be removed and the buffer zone be taken out.

The canyon was used for many years by residents for fishing, hunting, picnicing, wood gathering and later for snowmobiling. Reopening this road will again allow for those activities as well as for the recreational use—which has been stated—also comprises a large portion of the Jarbidge watershed.

I am a member of the following boards: Jarbidge Water User's Association, Jarbidge Community Hall Fund, Inc., Elko County Road Committee, Elko County Association of Retarded Citizens; which will further explain their tie into the written testimony.

Thank you for allowing me to present these views.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Skelton follows:]

January 31, 1986

Senator Chic Hecht
300 Booth Street
Suite 2014
Reno, NV 89502

RE: SB S722

Senator Hecht
Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Roberta Skelton. I reside at 641 Juniper Street, Elko, Nevada, with my husband. Our telephone number is 702-738-6571. We also own a home in Jarbidge.

My topic of concern will be to address the expansion of certain proposed boundary areas of the Jarbidge Wilderness.

I have written to the Congressional Delegation prior to this hearing and philosophically my position has not changed. I personally am not in favor of any Wilderness Area expansion, however, if a compromise has to be taken, I will support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich-Bill.

Presently, I serve on the Jarbidge Water Users Association, Jarbidge Community Hall Fund, Inc., The Elko County Association for Retarded Children, and the Elko County Road Committee. The reason I mention these particular associations is they tie into wilderness. The Jarbidge water supply forms at the head waters of Bear Creek which appears to lie in part of the proposed wilderness expansion. Therefore, the line must be withdrawn to exclude this water resource to the Community of Jarbidge.

The Jarbidge Community Hall fund, inc., was incorporated to restore and preserve certain historical sites within the Jarbidge townsite and beyond. Perkin's cabin, for instance, is now unattainable due to the fact the Forest Service will not allow re-opening of the South Canyon Road.

Jarbidge, Nevada, has not been mentioned in the public hearing that I can find throughout the state, however, this Community stands to lose more in the way of wilderness than many areas of the state. Jarbidge as a gold mining town was discovered around 1907 and has the distinction of having the last horse drawn stage robbery of the mine payroll in Nevada.

Jarbidge still has mining activity going. The surrounding terrain has heavy mineralization in much of the present wilderness which then would affect any additional wilderness proposal request.

Ranching, hunting, fishing, mining, and snowmobiling will all be affected by this proposed expansion, and to the detriment of our older population and the handicapped. The Board of Directors for Retarded Citizens, of which I am President, serves a population of 35 clients all in need of supervision, and motorized transportation is afforded to those clients for outdoor recreation such as fishing, skiing, tobogganing, and snowmobiling. In some areas where they are used to going such as the Jarbidge Coon Creek, Lamoille Canyon, and other areas will impair their usuage as the proposal stands now. Do they understand? Yes they do.

For instance, the south end of the Jarbidge Canyon has purposely been blocked by the United States Forest Service, which I have alluded to previously in this testimony. The Forest Service has refused to re-open this canyon road for approximately two to three miles. The road is in need of a bridge at Snowslide Gulch. And, with a cat and some smoothing over with a patrol, this then will allow folks to enjoy the historic and scenic area along with camping, fishing, snowmobiling, and hunting. I have a copy of Senator Hecht's reply to our Jarbidge postmaster and to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Fawcett. In the Senator's reply, I would offer this quote to him by the United States Forest Service. "With regard to the road closure, the Forest Service has informed me that the South Canyon Road is not well designed and requires frequent and expensive repairs in order to maintain it safely. As funds are not available for the necessary repairs, the road remains closed. South Canyon Road is included in portions of the wilderness proposals, and the outcome of the of the wilderness issue may affect the reopening of the road. I appreciate your making me aware of this concern, and I will be sure to keep it in mind as we continue to work on wilderness legislation."

This is in effect being used as a "buffer zone" by the wilderness proposal to protect the "Pristine Effect."

Another area of grave concern is the proposed line along Fox Creek, Pine Creek coming southwest into the Jarbidge Canyon and on the east slope of Fox Creek and Pine Creek Peaks. This proposed wilderness line also bumps along the Jarbidge-Charleston Summit Road between Coon Summit and Bear Creek Summit.

These areas are prime areas for skiing, hunting, snowmobiling, summer wood gathering and general sightseeing for those folks not into hiking or backpacking, but can go by motorized vehicle over wood roads in existance since 1908-1910. This also could very easily take in the Jarbidge Water Supply.

I like to think of Jarbidge as a place of history to go and enjoy, abide by the laws we presently have on the books, let those of us go fishing at the south end of the canyon or go up on top of Coon or Bear Creek at midnight in the winter by snowmobiles.

In conclusion, we, yes we, will take careof our land as conservationist as we too look ahead and lookout for our future generations. We do not need to lock up land into wilderness.

The cougar, the coyote, the badger, deer, fish, and chukar, will be there as long as those of us here in this room practice conservation and see that those who do not are given their just dues. So lets work together for a healthier America and keep the land in a multiple purpose use.

Thank you for allowing me this time.

cc: Congressman Harry Reid
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Barbara F. Vucanovich
312 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

443 5th Street
Elko, NV 89801

Senator Paul Laxalt
323 A. Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Paul Laxalt
300 Booth Street
Reno, NV 89502

Governor Richard Bryan
State Capitol Building
Carson City, NV 89710

Ernie Hall, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Elko County Court House
Elko, NV 89801

AFFIDAVIT BY THE CITIZENS OF JARBIDGE

After the Jarbidge Wilderness was established in 1964 the Forest Service began creating a buffer zone around it. One example of that buffer zone is the South Canyon Road up the Jarbidge River above the town of Jarbidge. Phil Joyal is 66 years old and he affirms that the road was in before he was born. That Road was developed by private parties without government help or interference. The Forest Service changed the original route. A few years after the area was designated Wilderness the road sluffed off and the Forest Service refused to reopen the road or to allow private individuals to reopen the road.

As a result of the closure of the road, which is just outside the present Wilderness, the older people of Jarbidge no longer are able to get to their favorite picnicking and camping area. Also hunters, woodgatherers and others have been adversely affected.

... OTHERS, HAVE WORKMANSHIP ...
OTHERS HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY
AFFECTED.

Philip E. Loyal FEB. 1, 1986
Roy K. Mobert Feb. 1, 1986
Arleen Loyal Feb. 1, 1986
Norman Walthers Feb. 1, 1986
Pearl Walthers Feb. 1, 1986
[illegible] Feb. 1, 1986
Charlotte L. Bright Feb 1, 1986
Jerry Stark Feb 1, 1986
[illegible] 2-1-86
Mona Dodd 2-1-86
Virgil Dodd 2-1-86
[illegible] 2/1/86
Ann Fallon 2/1/86
Bl Boston 2/1/86
Russell Baird 2/1/86
[illegible] 2-1-86
Eileen M. Cambridge 2-1-86
[illegible] 2-1-86

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I'll put this picture in my office when I get back to Washington.

Marian Sorensen.

STATEMENT OF MARIAN SORENSEN, WELLS, NV

Ms. SORENSEN. I am grateful for this opportunity to speak and thank you for coming to be here with us today. I am the wife of a rancher and we have ranched for 27 years of our life and I guess what I am going to say today will be in order to hopefully not be repetitious of a lot of things that have been said. I am speaking subjectively and emotionally because to me it's an emotional issue.

We have raised a lot of good crops on our ranch; lambs, and calves and I am grateful we've had the opportunity, but I am thankful also for the greatest crop we've been able to raise on our ranch, our children. Six of them have university degrees at this point and a couple of them are pursuing advanced degrees. None of them have chosen, so far, to come back to our ranch. That may be different with our son who is 19, whose roots are deep in the soil. He planted them when he started following his dad around. He is in England where he is for a couple of years, but he wants more than anything to come back.

Now I am so emotional I have not read the facts; I do not understand them. I have lived a pretty sheltered life and I am pretty naive but I am not naive when I say I understand when I believe this will have an effect on Nevada ranches. I just can't believe it will not. At this point 87% of Nevada land is not on the property rolls and if we were to take that off, use the rolls as well, although it has been declared that will not happen. I am concerned that it might. Let me just make this point, if we are again to say that the best land, and I've read that in many places, that the best land in Nevada should be declared wilderness. The most recent place I read that was yesterday afternoon, my son and I were reading from his geography book and we were studying in the area of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains areas. They talked about how desolate and how barren it is. The statement that really angered me, the author of this particular textbook said, perhaps the finest use of barren, desolate lands is as a release for the people from the stresses of the cities. That, in my mind, that is not the highest use of this land. In my opinion it should be used for many purposes, multi-purposes.

I hope that when that time comes and if my son decides to come back and follow his roots back to the soil, we will not have to encourage him to find some other profession rather than to decide to use his good mind to do something he has planned to do. Whether he does not know, there are other young people who desire to put their roots into the soil. I hope they have the opportunity and I hope that although it does sound like I am very simplistic and very naive, that we consider this land is for the use of all the people, that Nevada is for Nevadans first and for that reason I would encourage a great deal of concern before we designate any other wilderness. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Mrs. Skelton, I was very interested in your comments because of an article which I read on Jarbidge and how our

bill would affect you. Would you go into a little bit more explanation on that?

Ms. SKELTON. We have looked at several maps and I'm not really clear as to where the boundary will be down into the Jarbidge Canyon, but it does appear if it goes along with the Forest Service proposed boundary that it will affect us because it does dip down in the South Canyon Road, which I mentioned and it also also takes in part of the Bear Creek meadows which is the watershed for the Jarbidge residents. Jarbidge was not very concerned about what was happening until we finally went up and found out what was happening. We showed them pictures and maps we thought were the boundaries and all of a sudden we were saying maybe this can happen to us, what happened in Ohio. So they are deeply concerned about this area. In reference to the canyon road, in my further testimony, if I may take the time.

Senator HECHT. Yes; I am asking you questions, absolutely.

Ms. SKELTON. I have a copy of Senator Hecht's reply to our Jarbidge Postmaster and to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Faucet. In the Senator's reply, I would offer this quote to him by the U.S. Forest Service, "With regard to the road closure, the Forest Service has informed me that the South Canyon road is not well designed and requires frequent and expensive repairs in order to maintain it safely. As funds are not available for the necessary repairs, the road remains closed. South Canyon road is included in portions of the wilderness proposals and the outcome of the wilderness issue may affect the reopening of the road. I appreciate you making me aware of this concern and I will be sure to keep it in mind as we continue to work on wilderness legislation."

In my opening remarks I mentioned this in effect as being used as a buffer zone by the wilderness proposals to protect the pristine effect.

Senator HECHT. My staff member tells me you are right. He notified me, we did make an adjustment by knocking out one section, but we might not have taken care of the problem in its entirety.

Ms. SKELTON. We would be most happy to work with you on the issue anytime you would like.

Senator HECHT. I see it right here on the map and you have a very, very good point.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No, thank you, Senator.

Senator HECHT. I appreciate that this has been brought up because we have to look into this.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I am not sure you can answer this question, as I understand it, and I guess Ms. Skelton, I'll ask you; the Jarbidge Wilderness was created in 1964, is that correct?

Ms. SKELTON. That is correct.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. And the Wilderness Act was not in effect in 1964; is that correct?

Ms. SKELTON. Yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. And at that time when the Wilderness Act was passed, Jarbidge was designated under the Wilderness Act; is this true?

Ms. SKELTON. Jarbidge itself?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Jarbidge Wilderness area.

Ms. SKELTON. I can't answer that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. The Wilderness Act says that each State has to create a wilderness and that's the way Nevada complied with the law, I guess. I am trying to figure out how we are trying to do it again under the Wilderness Act. I guess Flipma. Flipma was passed in 1976 agencies were supposed to come up with more recommendations. I am trying to figure in my mind why the Jarbidge area as it is isn't enough and I think there are many people who feel that way. I am going to have to work with the staff and see why we are doing this process.

Ms. SKELTON. May I respond?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Of course.

Ms. SKELTON: Last year, in 1985, there were 200 visitors registered that went into the Jarbidge Wilderness.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. 200, that's not very many. I wonder how many go into the Rubys.

Ms. SKELTON. I am sure there are probably more go into the Ruby Mountains. We don't really encourage people to go into the wilderness up there. That's sounds biased also.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Why is that?

Ms. SKELTON. It's very, very rugged. It's almost a wilderness in itself and we feel it's a natural wilderness area and we are not opposed to that particularly to that large chunk of land there. It's really difficult and when people have accidents and you can only go into there by horseback or foot, and I am a nurse, nurse practioner, it's very difficult and I've done a lot of first aid work up there. It's very difficult to get in there and backpack those people out.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. It's pretty much inaccessible anyway; isn't it?

Ms. SKELTON. Yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I am going to talk with my staff and see what we are trying to accomplish anyway.

Senator HECHT. Scott, would you mind working out a schedule with Ms. Skelton?

Let's go to the next panel, No. 6. Panel seven, then take your seats up front. Grant Kien, Robert Colon, Robert Schneblin, Lois Parks, Julie Parks, June Gregory.

Charles Salsman are you ready?

Mr. PORTER. He's not here.

Senator HECHT. Tom Porter.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS R. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT, MINING OPERATIONS, FREEPORT-McMORAN GOLD CO.

Mr. PORTER. Thank you, very much for this opportunity to speak. My name is Thomas R. Porter and I represent Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co. I am vice president for mining operations. I am not against wilderness and do in fact support the Laxalt-Vucanovich-Hecht bill which sets aside 137,000 acres as wilderness. I would like to focus on the multiple use concept as an inherent environmental protection mechanism already in place. We operate a large open pit gold mine at Jerrit Canyon north of Elko, NV, in Elko County. The mine is on Forest Service land and we comply with policies set

forth by Congress in the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of June 12, 1960 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Multiple use as defined in the act, and I quote, means, "The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forest so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people."

"Sustained yield of the several products and services", means, "The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the renewable resource of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land."

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 states that in addition to the above, "Public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values."

In May 1978, Freeport submitted an operating plan to the Humboldt National Forest for a permit to mine and mill gold ore. Because of the magnitude of the proposed action, the Forest Service would not approve the operating plan until the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 were satisfied. A decision was made by the Forest supervisor to prepare an environmental impact statement. The EIS was prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. A number of issues and concerns were raised by Freeport, agencies, organizations and private individuals. Freeport, the Forest Service and various local organizations identified positive opportunities which could arise because of the project. The six priority concerns raised by the public and governmental agencies were affects on coal and livestock, significant deer summer and winter range, sage grouse strutting and brood grounds, threatened Lawhontan Cutthroat trout, soil erosion an increased sediment load in streams and water quality from accidental discharge of toxic materials.

In order to mitigate these concerns and identify alternatives an interdisciplinary term was formed with expertise in the fields of recreation, visual resources, cultural resources, water resources, biology, soils, geology, socioeconomics, air resources and noise.

Numerous alternatives and mitigation measures were considered, designed and implemented. Some of which included designing cattle passes through long cut slopes, paralleling corridors, construction of a $700,000 landscape multiple plate culvert road crossing through California Creek to protect the Lawhontan Cutthroat trout, revegetation measures on cut and fill slopes and special geotechnically sighting and design studies to construct a fail-safe tailings embankment and a natural clay tailings pond liner. The mine's operating plan is reviewed and updated annually by the Forest Service specialists. A detailed reclamation plan for disturbed areas is in effect. We have a bond of $1.1 million to insure the disturbed land is reclaimed. All of this is required to provide specific mitigation in monitoring requirements reviewed on a regular basis throughout the life of the project. The EIS and final decision to proceed was given on April 8, 1980, at a cost of close to $1

million. Numerous other State, Federal, and local permits were required as well.

Presently Freeport in Nevada has at the mine and millsites about 305 employees earning a payroll of about $10.7 million. The gross cost of the operation is $34.4 million for supplies, materials, and services. We make a very significant contribution to the local and State economy. An additional 65 to 95 people are attached in Reno and work with exploration.

This would not have been possible had the Jerritt Canyon gold deposits been located in wilderness areas.

It is well documented that several of the areas proposed in the U.S. House bill, No. 3302, are in favorable geologic environments and have mineral deposits. Specific reference is made to U.S. Geological Circular 966 which cites known occurrences of either anomalously high concentrations of precious metals, base metals and industrial minerals, actual producing properties or old mining camps.

In summary I support the Laxalt-Vucanovich-Hecht bill. The Reid bill No. 3302 ties up too much land with demonstrated high mineral potential. Most Nevada mines have lives of 10 years or less and successful exploration efforts are required to insure the long-term economic benefits afforded Nevada as a result of mining. We should not withdraw as wilderness those areas showing mineral potential. In addition, the Multiple Use Sustained-yield Act of June 12, 1960 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provide exceptional environmental protection while at the same time not locking out ranching, hunting, mining, snowmobiling and other recreational and business endeavors.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. William Lassetter.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM LASSETTER

Mr. LASSETTER. My name is William Lassetter. My concern is for the preservation of at least a portion of our undisturbed environment. I use the word environment to reinforce a concept which has seemingly been lost in the arguments I have heard against additional wilderness. The wilderness designation takes nothing away from us. Any person would be welcome at any time within its boundaries to enjoy what nature has put considerable effort into providing for us. The wilderness status simply requests that nothing is removed from the area. I get the feeling that the only way a lot of people appreciate the world we live in and ultimately evolved from is from the window of an automobile.

Sure there's plenty of argument that we should make use of the resources provided; that otherwise we are restricting the foundations of Nevada heritage. I understand that some grazing rights might be affected as well as water rights and certainly mode of access to the area. I am a geologist involved with mineral exploration and well aware of the restrictions that would be placed upon my work. At least some of the arguments I have heard concerning these aspects of the wilderness act have come from those who are quick to present a case out of context with the original intention of the act. The number of legitimate opinions regarding the restrictions of this issue will vary with the number of those with justified

complaints. This should definitely be taken into consideration. But the fact remains that pristine land is getting to be the rarest of all resources and it's not recyclable.

I am not particularly impressed by either of the proposed wilderness bills. My feeling is that the proponents of H.R. 3302, the Reid-Sieberling bill, are simply attempting to railroad in as much wilderness as they can get away with for now, without giving much consideration to those who may be adversely affected by it. On the other hand H.R. 1686, the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich supported bill, seems to have lost sight of what wilderness status really means. In essence my inclination would be to scrap both of these bills.

At the risk of stepping on a lot of toes of folks in the room and a lot of my own friends I believe that if we are going to designate land to wilderness status, and I am not particularly concerned with where it is, or how many acres, we should leave truly as wilderness. Maybe then more people can learn to appreciate the real environment we live in and even got to use the oldest form of transportation known to man. Now that's real heritage.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Frank Bergwall.

STATEMENT OF FRANK BERGWALL, CARLIN, NV

Mr. BERGWALL. My name is Frank Bergwall and I've been a resident of rural Nevada for 11 of my 37 years. My love of the wide open spaces led me to a career as a geologist. My lifestyle, hobbies, and vocation require access to the 87 percent of Nevada which is held in public trust by the Federal Government. I enjoy the freedom to drive to a fishing location with my wife and three children, all of whom enjoy fishing. My oldest daughter is now 6 and the younger children would not be able to make a long walk to some of the fishing sites we enjoy. As an archery enthusiast I do not want wilderness to reduce the size of the potential areas in which I may hunt. This would occur if I were unable to bring my game out of the mountains in a truck. I became a geologist because I enjoy being out in the countryside and love to prospect and collect mineral specimens. As a prospector and mineral collector a wilderness designation of some mineral collecting areas would limit my favorite hobby.

As a professional engaged in exploration for mineral commodities I can not emphasis the danger of limiting the resource areas available for discovery and ultimate production of the minerals upon which many of our industries depend.

I agree with the Nevada Mining Association that we should encourage exploration for strategic minerals rather than force our industries to buy them from politically hostile or unstable governments. Wilderness areas do not encourage mineral exploration.

In conclusion I ask Congressman Reid and other good intentioned public servants to think about the impact of the growth rate in Nevada and consider that increasing numbers of people will be pursuing recreational and other free access activities that I have mentioned in fewer acres of their public lands.

I do not wish more wilderness but I would accept and support S. 722 as lesser of two evil.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Borden Putnam.

STATEMENT OF BORDEN R. PUTNAM, EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Mr. PUTNAM. Thank you. Good morning, there will be some repetition in this but I am the appointed representative and think there is information that may be brought out in a manner that might be more easily understood.

I agree with testimony brought out by Congressman Reid in many aspects, but the main point I want to stress to manage a wilderness will preclude the location of new mining claims. It's the new mining claims and new economic discoveries which I most object to being excluded from the wilderness designation.

As a geologist I must maintain a balance between a sincere love and appreciation for the environment and a realization that a growing democratic society has an acute need for minerals and raw materials. The question before us today, I believe, is whether certain acreages should be removed from the status of multiple use—serving the needs of many—and restricted to wilderness status or serving the needs of a few.

Mining and cattle ranching won the West, pushing people into regions where few would have otherwise gone. There is an inherent danger in rapid, potentially uneducated withdrawal of land having the likelihood for hosting resources of economic significance, both in the manner of jobs and domestic resources. Lands designated for wilderness status occur along mountain chains, in topographically abrupt areas. These areas are also typically historic mining and prospecting areas as they are the preeminent place to examine rock outcropping and thereby discover mineralized occurrences.

While some wilderness is a good idea there is now and probably always will be an economic and strategic reason for a resource independence. The discovery of economic mineral deposits leads to the creation of hundreds of jobs, often in areas suffering from a faltering domestic farming community. There are few other sources of income except the untenable and uncontrollable tourism trade. Domestic local job markets create town unity, pride, and security for the future generations.

Exploring for economic mineral deposits requires diligence, extensive footwork, years of experience and a great deal of luck. This country has been walked for only slightly over 100 years by prospectors searching for mineral deposits. We now walk those same places for mineral deposits of the type we now mine in the Elko area such as the Carlin and Jerritt Canyon mines, where in the past were not realized nor economic. Had these areas been withdrawn into wilderness status, the locating of new mining claims would not have been possible. Wilderness precludes the realization that at a later date areas now thought not to contain economic resources would suddenly become potential resource areas for mineable deposits.

The plague and blessing of mining is that Federal resource dependencies will vary, forcing mines to close in some areas while opening new ones elsewhere. While it is true that mining changes the environment though in relatively small acreages, these acre-

ages in no way equal the huge areas proposed for wilderness in the Reid-Sieberling wilderness bill. To withdraw those large areas proposed as wilderness would be to deny unjustly the potential discovery of an economic resource capable of supporting the existence of many native Nevadans. These Nevadans would be contributing, participating members of the local economy. No State should become a welfare or tourism dominated society. We must weigh carefully the resource value of each wilderness area so that we do not endanger the resource stability of our Nation nor the economic stability of the local economy. Each ore deposit is a distinct yet unique individual who is not easily predicted nor located. We can not deny ourselves potential we have yet to realize.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. John Omernik.

STATEMENT OF JOHN OMERNIK, EXPLORATION MANAGER, EXXON CO. U.S.A.'S FRONTIER PROJECT

Mr. OMERNIK. Good afternoon or good morning, I think it is. I appreciate the opportunity, Senator Hecht, and Congresswoman Vucanovich to be here. My name is John Omernik and I am the exploration manager for conducting Exxon's U.S.A.'s Frontier Project. I am responsible for Exxon's exploration activities in Nevada and the three west coast States. I would like to speak specifically on the aspects of oil and gas as they relate to the areas under consideration today for wilderness designation. Two of these we feel have a very, very high potential for oil and gas discovery. These areas which we feel have the highest potential are the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Current Mountain. Our interest has been stimulated by the recent oil discoveries in Railroad Valley which produces, I think, in excess of 2,000 barrels a day. Railroad Valley contains 4 of Nevada's 5 commercial oil fields and lies immediately adjacent to all 3 proposed wilderness areas.

It's my belief that the potential exists for even larger accumulations of oil and gas deposits than have been found in Railroad Valley and quite probably in adjacent areas.

Each of these areas contains geologic formations favorable to accumulation of oil and gas. However, access to these areas is required to conduct geologic, geophysical, and exploratory studies to determine if such deposits actually exist and in fact, whether they are viable on an economic basis.

While Exxon recognizes the legitimate need for wilderness, Exxon believes interest in Nevada and the Nation are best served by first unifying the total resource value of these lands in selecting for open multiple use which are for the public good.

In 1984 my company firmly committed itself to an active exploration program in Nevada and in 1984 and 1985 Exxon accounted for nearly 50 percent of the 112 crew months seismic activities conducted in the State. We consider these activities and expenditures contributing directly to Nevada's economy. For example in 1985 Exxon contracted with 4 seismic crews which employed over 200 people, at $400,000 to $750,000 per month. A significant portion of these funds remains in Nevada. In addition, Exxon in 1985 also drilled a well at a cost of $3.5 million in the remote Owyhee Basin,

some 75 miles northwest of Elko. Exxon is not the only company that believes in the potential for oil and gas discovery in Nevada. Between 1983 and 1985 industries exploratory wells increased from 9 to 34. During the same period industries seismic activities jumped 50 percent. The economic speculation is that the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon and Current Mountain areas rank among the highest undetermined oil and gas potential in Nevada. We strongly urge the Nevada delegation in Congress to exclude these three areas from any wilderness designation so they can remain open for petroleum exploration. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Omernik follows:]

TESTIMONY BY EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.
BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER & RESOURCE CONSERVATION
FEBRUARY 11, 1986

INTRODUCTION

My name is John Omernik, and I am exploration manager for Exxon Company U.S.A.'s Frontier Project. In my job, I am responsible for Exxon's exploration activities in Nevada and the three west coast states. I appreciate the opportunity to testify and convey Exxon's interest, from an oil and gas exploration standpoint, in three of the areas which are being considered for wilderness designation. The three areas which we believe have the highest potential for oil and gas are Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain. We also believe many of the areas under consideration have significant hardrock minerals potential, and a representative from our Exxon Minerals office in Reno will discuss that with you on Wednesday.

My comments will focus on why we believe the petroleum industry should be allowed access to these three areas and then summarize Exxon and the petroleum industry's activity in the state.

POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

We would urge the members of the Nevada congressional delegation to not designate areas with high potential for mineral resource development as wilderness before industry has had an opportunity to explore them. We fully realize that during a time of falling oil prices and adequate

energy supplies, it is difficult to focus on this country's declining base of oil and gas reserves. However, the trend illustrates a growing problem for our nation. In 1971, domestic reserves were 39 billion barrels of oil and 291 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. In 1985, the comparable reserve figures were 27 billion barrels of oil and 198 trillion cubic feet of gas. This represents a 30 percent decrease in reserves and we believe demonstrates the need to adequately explore high potential areas to determine if they have oil and gas deposits.

Our interest in the three potential wilderness areas of Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain has been stimulated by recent oil discoveries in Railroad Valley. There are currently four commercial oil fields in Railroad Valley which are near these three areas. However, Exxon believes that in the three potential wilderness areas, the potential exists for larger oil and gas deposits than have been found to date in Railroad Valley.

Each of these three areas contains geologic formations which are favorable to holding large accumulations of recoverable oil and gas. However, access is needed to conduct geologic, geophysical, and exploratory work to determine if such deposits actually do exist and whether they are recoverable. So far, not one significant well has been drilled in these areas to evaluate their potential. Obviously this possibility cannot be tested if industry is denied access to these areas.

In stating our views we are not saying that no lands should be designated as wilderness. We believe that the interests of Nevada and our country are best served by determining what land uses provide the most good to the most people. Some lands have exceptional value for wilderness which overrides other potential uses. However, we believe that areas with exceptional potential for mineral development should not be "locked up" as wilderness lands before being thoroughly evaluated.

EXXON EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN NEVADA

I mentioned earlier that I was manager of Exxon's "Frontier Project" in the western United States. As the term "Frontier Project" indicates, exploration in Nevada is a relatively new venture for Exxon. My company made a firm commitment to an exploration program in the state in 1984 because we felt it had a very high potential for significant oil and gas reserves. We continue to feel that way today.

Perhaps, the best indicator of our belief in the oil and gas potential in Nevada is our high level of activity in the state during the past two years. Based on data supplied by the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry accounted for 112-crew months of seismic activity in 1984 and 1985. Exxon accounted for nearly 50 percent of that total.

We believe the state's economy benefits from such activity because the seismic crews hire local people and spend money in surrounding communities on supplies, housing, transportation, equipment, and many other items. During the summer months of 1985, we contracted with four seismic crews which employed over 200 workers. We estimate that 25-30 percent of these workers were residents of Nevada. The cost for each of these crews ranged from $400,000 to $700,000 per month and a significant portion of those funds remained in the state. In addition, service businesses provided supplies, equipment, transportation, and needed maintenance that also generated revenue for the state's economy.
It is fairly obvious that the level of seismic activity generated by the oil and gas industry contributes a significant amount of revenue to the state's economy.

In addition to extensive seismic work, Exxon also drilled one well in 1985 at a cost of about $3.5 million in the Owyhee Basin, at a site about 75 miles northwest of Elko. It was the first well ever drilled in this area. Although the results were disappointing, it provided valuable information that will assist us in future exploratory work. Of course, this activity also introduces significant amounts of money into the state's economy.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ACTIVITY IN NEVADA

Industry data indicate that Exxon is not the only company that believes the potential for additional oil and gas exists in Nevada. Although, only 58 wildcat and seven development wells have been drilled by industry in Nevada over the last three years, the drilling trend during this time confirms that others in the oil industry share Exxon's belief in the high oil and gas potential for the state. In 1983, 9 wells were drilled; in 1984, 22 wells were drilled; and during the first 11 months of 1985, 34 wells were drilled in this area. The level of seismic activity illustrates the same trend. In 1983, there were 41-crew months; in 1984, 50-crew months; and in 1985, 62-crew months of activity in the state. This trend is even more impressive when viewed against the 35 to 40 percent reduction in seismic activity which occurred in 1985 in the Rocky Mountains.

SUMMARY

As you can tell, Exxon has invested a significant amount of money in an attempt to find oil and gas in Nevada. So far, we have not made any discoveries, but it must be remembered that most of our efforts have occurred during the last two years. We knew when we made a commitment to our work in Nevada that it would be a long-term effort and it is one to which we remain committed.

We believe that the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain areas rank among the best areas in Nevada for oil and gas accumulation. We would strongly urge the members of the state's delegation and the rest of the Congress to exclude these three areas from any wilderness legislation so that they can be opened up for exploration activity.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to try and answer any questions you have.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let me ask you geologists three questions. Do you feel we still have strategic minerals in Nevada?

Mr. PUTNAM. What is the price you are going to mine it at today, compared to what you are going to mine it at 20 years from now.

Senator HECHT. Let me put it to you a different way: What if we lose South Africa and strategic mining there?

Mr. BERGWALL. We do have chromium and we do have some other minor occurrences but no major identified projects but if the price warranted it—I think you recognize the change in the price of gold grew and an ounce to the present price and what happened to gold exploration and mining activity. That is the duplicate of what will happen in all of Nevada, all over the United States to all these minerals which will have increasing marked value, will have an increasing power economically if they are locked up in wilderness. Enough said.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Putnam, would you address that please?

Mr. PUTNAM. I have two responses, one that is strategic minerals are difficult to locate. They are in different geographical areas where they are held and we do have some of them, if South Africa is completely taken out of the free world market. Probably we read these records whereby it is stated that the mineral resources of these areas has been studied and looked at and they should hold to determine whether there are economic deposits and they should hold if they are of a magnitude greater than we will be comfortable with, meaning it will take an assay of 10 times what we are considering because we have to be more diligent in our work to assess an area's viability for mineable deposits. It's not a quick and easy job. It takes years of work and people going over the same terrain and mapping it and not just go in and taking a few samples at its head and body, not outcroppings and that's what, as I said, it's the more difficult areas where we may find a resource that we don't even realize at this point. Say more of the same, more gold, those sorts of things where we could not understand where they might be right now in that regard. I felt violated when the Federal Government came forward and said they have accurately assessed a given property. I don't think I could tell that to a wildlife conservationist who states that mining comes to make a living exploiting our natural national resources.

Senator HECHT. For the record, who are they?

Mr. PUTNAM. U.S. Geological Survey.

Senator HECHT. You would say the group as a whole?

Mr. PUTNAM. Yes.

Senator HECHT. Anyone else?

Mr. PUTNAM. When I first got out of college my first job was working for the Forest Service on mineral evaluations in California and they pointed out the Forest Service administrators in that region were giving directives to the local workers to take the narrow approach of the today price of an economic mineral viability of a project or prospect or anything, it is very narrow. Is it economical today, not tomorrow, not next week and if that's what bureaucrats are having to do, I am sure that today it is still economical for a shortsighted view in terms of resources. They think very long in terms of visual resources and wilderness. I think they are

listening to whatever pressure groups are putting the most pressure on them and if that happens to be the Sierra Club——

Senator HECHT. I appreciate this kind of hearing so as to hear all sides. Those are the reasons you both immediately endorsed our bill. Do you feel there is any mineral potential in the four areas we have designated as wilderness in our bill?

Mr. PUTNAM. There probably is. The point I want to make is even after we explore an area and drill a lot of holes and look very, very hard to the best of our ability in an area, it's very difficult to turn away and walk away from that area and say there is nothing there. Something brought us in that area; we found mineralization in it. You never come away with a feeling you have probably tested all the property and you can't know potential is increasing. In that regard whether it's economical, whether it's viable in today's market—that is very difficult to ascertain. You cannot predict the barium market. Barite was very economical and then the bottom fell out just like that. You know copper was big in the Ely area but was wiped out by the South Americans. We need information to help support our mining industries in this country not just overseas. We cannot be competing in world markets.

Senator HECHT. Let me ask you, in the Reid bill, do you feel a lot of minerals are locked up forever?

Mr. PUTNAM. Oh, yes, I shudder at the thought of that. I don't think it can appropriately be tested. It's just such a large area, we don't have the time. There is no way.

Senator HECHT. Has anyone ever tested those areas?

Mr. PUTNAM. I have been in quite a few of those areas myself but at the time I was looking for molybdenum mainly and now I am looking for gold for Newmont and it will be very different in 5 years.

Senator HECHT. Strategic value is so unstable as demonstrated by the South African situation. We get so much of our strategic minerals from there, now we are going to have to look for other world markets. Do you feel from what you are doing here there are strategic minerals in Nevada that we could mine and as far as the price, if you can't get it anywhere else, as far as South Africa you will have to mine it for our space program?

Mr. PUTNAM. Again, there are certain commodities that do not occur in Nevada. You cannot do anything about that. You will have to withdraw those areas that preclude you from—maybe I am speaking naively, but there may be a geological region that occurred in Nevada, that may occur in a different manner, whatever these are that make gold deposits. I understood a few years ago there were 50 geologists in Elko County looking for gold and that is a sort of rethinking that can happen. Nevada is a geological mishmash. It's the most confused State because it has such a varied geological past and it's a very difficult question on which to come to firm answers.

Senator HECHT. You feel we have not fully touched the potential then, is that right? How about you Frank?

Mr. BERGWALL. I agree.

Senator HECHT. Let me ask one question of John Omernik, how about oil and gas exploration that was nonexistent 20 years ago, now how do you feel about our potential on that?

Mr. OMERNIK. I feel the potential is here. There are a great number of companies beside my own who are expending a considerable amount of money looking at characteristics in Nevada. Somewhere out there is a very high potential for discovery in the future. The same question relating to minerals relates to the petroleum industry. I think it's mainly a matter of time before we find a good supply of cheap oil that's a natural resource. We are trying to find it if it's there, it is a very difficult task and it's a very likely possibility it's here in Nevada and your discovery in Granite Canyon in 1983, the first in some 20 to 30 years since the first discovery suddenly there was a great excitement and encouragement to the area.

Senator HECHT. In our bill do you feel that you have been locked out in any exploration in the four areas?

Mr. OMERNIK. No, we are not. We are concerned about the other bills that in fact lock us out and the minerals that apply to the technology and that can't be with the environment and with the State in general.

Senator HECHT. So, in Reid's bill you feel there is a tremendous potential that it will?

Mr. OMERNIK. Yes; quite certainly.

Senator HECHT. Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Bergwall or Mr. Putnam, yesterday someone testified in Ely that geologists will have plenty of available area to explore in Nevada that isn't included in these designated wilderness areas, that the Reid bill covers and it seemed to me that was absurd but I would like to hear your reaction to that? Are all the areas in the State, potentially mineralized or are most of the opportunities to explore and find minerals in the wilderness areas that are proposed?

Mr. PUTNAM. Opportunities lie in the wilderness areas proposed, because typically they occur in areas with relief areas which typically are outcroppings, the better looking areas. In the salt plains there are no excavations, you can't see any rock. It only could be conjecture that the flat areas or basins would be mineralized.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Range mountains explorations, so the problems in the land designated by the BLM map are mostly of those areas with that type topography and so it shuts out lots of areas.

Mr. PUTNAM. I agree, they are beautiful, lots of them are unique.

Senator HECHT. We are running out of time and an hour has past so we will recess for 5 minutes and then come back.

[Recess taken].

Senator HECHT. Panel No. 7: Grant Kien, Robert Colon, Robert Schneblin, Lois Parks, Julie Parks, and June Gregory. And panel No. 8, would come up here and take a seat? Vernon Dalton, Bob Reed, John Neff, Harvey Dahl, and Joseph Poole.

Grout Kien.

STATEMENT OF DR. GRANT T. KIEN, ELKO, NV

Dr. KIEN. My name is Grant T. Kien and I have been a resident of Elko County for 11½ years and since I am an avid outdoorsman I know the roadless areas within the national forests of Nevada. My outdoor interests include hunting, fly fishing, ski mountaineer-

ing, wildlife photography and backpacking. I grew up in Ohio and greatly appreciate the public land in Nevada because of early days in Ohio.

I am absolutely opposed to the Senate bill S. 722 because it fails to include the majority of truly beautiful and unique wilderness land in the United States. I am on record as supporting Congressman's Reid's H.R. 3302 as amended by House Subcommittee on Public Lands in October 1985 and, further, I wish to go on record supporting the addition of Elk Mountain, Excelsior Mountain, Grant Range, Pearl Peak, Sweetwater Mountains and the Toyiabe Crest-Robles areas to the amended H.R. 3302 bill. I also strongly support the formation of Great Basin National Park in the South Range. While I am a dedicated game and bird hunter, I feel the Wheeler Peak area is a national treasure and should be given the ultimate protection as a national park including an exclusion of hunting.

Now I will try to condense my remarks and give my written report clarity. One of the things we've talked about here this morning is to some extent what's the reason a lot of people agree there are a lot of pretty places in Nevada, to some extent that's what we are through arguing about here.

I want to clarify wilderness does not mean any restriction of hunting and fishing other than you have to walk or ride a horse. For me and many others this is the only way to truly enjoy big game hunting where I am challenging the deer and elk on his own wild terrain. But I do not sit in judgment over those people who prefer to have their pickup truck close by. They already have endless roads and jeep trails outside of the wild lands being considered. All I am asking is to let myself and future generations have places to go where there are no roads and vehicles to pursue big game on their own terms and in a natural state.

One of the other things that has been, I think, misworded objection this morning and that is what is called multiple-use. Multiple-use does include wilderness. Wilderness is an integral part of multi-use, not every area of every public land can be used at the same time and the same place for every activity. In closing I do not feel that these lands are set aside for elitist. They are not a lockout, and further more, these lands have no roads to speak of into them now and therefore there is no lockout. They never had roads to begin with. That's why we are considering them.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Kien follows:]

332 Spring Creek Pkwy.
Elko, Nevada 89801
Feb. 7, 1986

Dear Senator Hecht:

Please include this letter as my comments into the official record for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters field hearing held on Feb. 11, 1986 in Elko, Nevada.

I have been a resident of Elko County for 11½ years and since I am an avid outdoorman I know the roadless areas within the National Forests of Nevada. My outdoor interests include hunting, fly fishing, ski mountaineering, wildlife photography and backpacking.

I am absolutely opposed to Senate Bill (S. 722) because it fails to include the majority of truly beautiful and unique wilderness lands within our state.

I wish to go on record as supporting Congressman Reid's H. R. 3302 as amended by House Subcommittee on Public Lands in October 1985 and, further, I wish to go on record supporting the addition of Elk Mountain, Excelsior Mountains, Grant Range, Pearl Peak, Sweetwater Mountains, and Toiyabe Crest roadless areas to the amended H. R. 3302. I also strongly support the formation of Great Basin National Park in the South Snake Range. While I am a dedicated big game and bird hunter, I feel the Wheeler Peak area is a national treasure and should be given the ultimate protection as a National Park including exclusion of hunting

The State of Nevada deserves the above wilderness areas and National Park, for far too long, the State has been looked on as barren dumping ground and bombing range and it is time we save our existing wildlands. Nevada is long overdue in saving some of its truly wild scenic areas and areas of critical wildlife habitat in their natural state before more roads are pushed into them and, thus, ruining them forever.

I am sure those opposed to wilderness will give you all sorts of arguments against saving land in its natural state. I would counter these arguments with the following:

Dennis T. Klein, M.D.
2-7-86

2

1. Wilderness does not preclude grazing. There is nothing in the Wilderness Act 1964 that prohibits grazing. The amount of grazing should be determined by the highly trained range managers employed by National Forest Service and their counterparts in wildlife biology in the National Forest as well as state wildlife personnel so that a happy medium between commercial livestock use and wildlife is reached whether land is wilderness or other-wise.

2. Wilderness does not mean any restriction on hunting and fishing other than you have to walk or ride a horse. For me and many others this is the only way to truly enjoy big game hunting where I am challenging the deer, etc. on his own wild terrain; but I do not sit in judgement over those people who prefer to have their pickup truck close by; but they already have endless roads and jeep trails outside of the wild lands being considered -- All I am asking is let myself and future generations have places to go where there are no roads and vehicles to pursue big game on their own terms and in a natural state.

3. Multiple use includes wilderness designation just as it does grazing, mining, timber, etc. While some land can be used for more than one use at a time, not <u>every</u> acre can be used by all. For example, I can't hunt sage hen in the middle of an open pit mine nor can a rancher graze his cattle there. So, I hunt sage grouse elsewhere; that does not mean I feel mining has cheated me for I realize it as a legitimate part of multiple use; however, I feel certain pretty places that have no roads within their boundaries be off-limits to bull dozers and that mining industry should not have access to every acre of public lands to explore and develop as they see fit. Mining like hunting is not a God-given right to be done at anyplace at anytime. We all live on this earth and there should be give and take between public land users.

4 Opposition frequently eludes to wilderness as exclusive for rich, young, and able-bodied. I submit the following: In the first few miles of the Ruby Crest Trail from the Lamoille Canyon road I have seen babies in backpack carriers, people with crutches, artificial limbs and pacemakers. Wilderness is not just for young fit adults, people of all ages and condition enjoy getting away from the asphalt jungle and smells

Brent T. Klein, MD 2/7/96
Elko, Nevada

of the internal combustion engine. Wilderness is a tonic for mankind; a place to reflect on ourselves and our place in God's world. A wilderness walk or a full-fledge backpacking big game hunt has intangible spiritual benefits to many people and we need to save these lands for future generations, who with more and more technology in America, will want to get away to a natural wild place if only for a mile or two on a weekend Sure! not everybody wants to walk or can ride a horse, but the vast majority of the public lands in Nevada are open to vehicle use for those who prefer camping in a motor home or trailer. Wilderness is not for the very rich! It is the cheapest of all outdoor pursuits -- a pair of gym shoes can be the only cost -- No need for $2,000 - $3,000 snowmobile or dirt bike! A wilderness vacation is cheap compared to motels, restaurants and golf courses. No not everyone uses wilderness but we don't get rid of swimming pools or golf courses because not everybody uses them! or can't afford them!

5. Wilderness is really above all so called "uses" by man - a place that does not have to be "used" for us to justify its existence. Beautiful places and their wildlife should be really saved for their own merits not because I like to ski secluded powder bowls or chase elk with a bow and arrow. These places should be kept for mankind to treasure like we do works of art. When I'm too old to enjoy them I'll be glad to know they are still there for my children's children.

6. Some people argue wilderness areas are fine for Idaho or Alaska but here in Nevada we want to use and develop every acre - I say Alaska is like relegating happiness to Heaven! Some of us may never get there! We need wilderness areas in our own state.

7. Some say we can not afford to not mine every deposit that is economically feasible - I say we can - the vast majority lands are still open to mining even if H.R. 3302 (amended) is passed; if there comes a true National emergency, future generations will always have these wild lands in trust just like a savings account - they may never need to take the last ounce of lead or copper out of Ruby Mts. but that will be their decision in their world and time.

8. Wilderness is good for the State's economy - it adds balance - people around the world and U.S.A. seek out backpacking and cross-country skiing areas that are official wilderness. These people buy

Dan T. Hickmond 2/7/8
Elko, Nevada

groceries, freeze dried food and camping gear and will probably spend a night or two in our motels and casinos. Look at Jackson, Wyoming! Mining, ranching, wilderness use all coexist and the town is certainly thriving with motels and restaurants.

In closing I ask you and the anti wilderness groups to be reasonable - we all live here on this planet - we love and treasure different things and we need to listen to one another.

A reasonable wilderness bill needs to protect alot more than a trivial 136,900 acres

Sincerely,

Grant T. Kien

Grant T. Kien, M.D.

Elko, Nevada 2/7/86

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Robert Colon.

STATEMENT OF BOB COLON, ELKO, NV

Mr. COLON. I am a resident of Elko County and a third generation Nevadan. I am a member of your advisory committee in Elko.

This presentation expresses my opinion and the opinion of others as well. I have talked to many residents of this country, not all of whom favor such restrictive wilderness legislation as proposed in Senate bill No. 722. Many ranchers have privately expressed their concern over the protection of watersheds from excessive disruption which occurs with present mining and exploration methods. They recognize the disruption of grazing lands by the many zig-zag patterns across a mountainside created by exploration roads.

Sportsmen and wildlife agencies recognize the value of wilderness as an area where big game animals find protection and sanctuary, expanding their population into other areas. The Independence Mountain Range is an example of the above concerns. Exploration roads have made access to deer so convenient that in order to protect the deer population from excessive harvest, the deer-hunter quota has steadily been reduced and will continue to be reduced. Exploration roads have also meant the loss of grazing area for the ranchers in that their cattle cannot climb the steep embankments created.

It has been argued that wilderness excludes those unable or unwilling to walk or ride on horseback to such areas and that multiple-use should prevail. Sportmen have always accepted some restrictive use in certain areas. Two areas that I might site in Elko County are Crittendon Reservior and the collection ditch at the Ruby Marshes where artificial lures or flies only are permitted. This excludes many bait fishermen, including my two young sons, from fishing there at this time but I realize and so do many others, that these restrictions protect the fisheries, improving their quality of fishing. Such protective uses exist in many rivers and lakes throughout this county with little objection. Restricting wilderness to a few small areas of Nevada is like confining happiness to heaven. One may never get there.

I realize that sleeping on the ground and climbing over mountains is not for everyone, certainly not the majority of our population. The four-wheel enthusiasts decry wilderness as a domain that precludes the vast majority of recreation seekers from deriving pleasure whatsoever. This reasoning is as irrational as contending that since a majority of people enjoy bowling over visiting art exhibits we should convert all our museums into bowling alleys. Recreation is valuable in proportion to the intensity of the experience and to the degree it differs from in contrast with everyday life.

Mechanized recreation has already seized nine-tenths of the forest and mountains; a decent respect for minorities should dedicate the other one-tenth to wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Robert Schneblin.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT SCHNEBLIN

Mr. SCHNEBLIN. Robert Schneblin is my name. I am a citizen of the United States first and a citizen of Nevada second. I understand this wilderness bill is a Federal law and I am wondering who is representing the Nation as a whole in this matter. I think that the BLM is or the U.S. Forest Service is, but I don't know for sure and amongst all this about wilderness testimony today I decided to speak for the Nation as a whole.

I thought that Nevada had very, very little wilderness area in comparison with other surrounding States. I wish I had a chart of a comparison of Government-owned lands in each State surrounding Nevada. Because I think Nevada would probably shine quite strongly; 87 percent I think is Government-owned land. I think that here is where the issue is. I think the Nevada people have suffered so long, so much Government-controlled land that any hint of even redesignating Government land to something else gets their hackles up.

I would like to see if it's possible that the carrot could be thrown into this situation someway or another. I would like to propose or suggest that possibly Congress look into for every 3 acres of land designated wilderness that the rural communities have one acre given to the cities of the rural population not to Reno or Las Vegas, I think they are growing fast enough and big enough but to give the rural communities a little clout by giving them land to grow in and see if this wouldn't somehow get Nevada into a little bit more designated wilderness. I really appreciate wilderness. I live across from the Ruby Mountains and look at them every morning, and I am sure glad they are there and I am glad that they are going to stay there, and I can't be done for some other multiple purpose. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Lois Parks.

STATEMENT OF LOIS F. PARKS, TUSCARORA, NV

Ms. LOIS PARKS. My name is Lois Parks, I live in Tuscarora about 52 miles north of Elko. I am a retired schoolteacher and I still help out at the local elementary school. I lived in a number of other States in the United States from Massachusetts to California, including Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia

Senator HECHT. Excuse me, would you speak in the microphone.

Ms. LOIS PARKS. Excuse me, I's sorry, maybe this one would be better. I have a bad cold as you can tell. My voice is not at its best.

I have lived in many States in the United States from Massachusetts to where I was born in California, Florida, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia. I have chosen to retire in Nevada because of the undisturbed beauty of many places in the State. I have made this my permanent residence since 1974 and own property in Elko as well as Tuscarora and before that day I spent some time from 1966 to 1974 enjoying the beauty of the mountains and valleys. One of these mountain peaks I can see from my home is doomed to destruction for mining purposes. Despite Federal law, this can never be restored to its natural condition due to the immensity of the task. Nevada has the smallest acreage in designated

wilderness of 11 Western States. Even with the largest area proposed for wilderness, Nevada would rank second to the last in total acres protected less than 2 percent of this great State would be affected.

I am making a plea for the beauty of Nevada to be preserved for my grandchildren, great-grandchildren and future generations of us all to enjoy and to see parts of our country as it has been for generations behind us. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Julie Parks.

STATEMENT OF JULIE PARKS, TUSCARORA, NV

Ms. JULIE PARKS. My name is Julie Parks. I live in Tuscarora, a small community 52 miles north of Elko. For 20 years my husband and I have operated the Tuscarora Pottery School there. Our students have come from across the United States as well as South America, Europe, and Australia.

Thank you for traveling to Elko and giving me this opportunity to speak to you briefly about my concerns regarding wilderness areas in Nevada. I appreciate Senators Hecht and Laxalt, and Congresswoman Vucanovich bringing the wilderness issue to our attention. I feel however that the 137,000 acres they propose to be designated wilderness in Senate bill 722 is far too little. I support the bill passed by the House Interior Committee designating 939,000 acres of Nevada as wilderness. I urge you to consider the areas they have proposed carefully for without the protection of a strong wilderness bill some of the most beautiful mountains in the world will be left subject to severe scarring, even destruction. The House Public Lands Subcommittee worked very hard and came up with a fair bill. I know you will do the same and I wish to thank you for that.

Senator HECHT. June Gregory is not here today.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. We are in a rush here so that everyone has an opportunity to be heard. I wanted to ask a question of Mrs. Lois Parks. What mining property did you say you see looking out your window, Independence Valley? What mining company is that?

Ms. LOIS PARKS. That is Freeport Mining. It's already sarred by roads, zig-zagging up where they have done exploration and so forth.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you. I was going to ask Mr. Colon, from your statement I am not sure whether you are for or against S. 722. It was a little confusing. I understand all your statements but you never did say whether you are for or against S. 722.

Mr. COLON. I feel S. 722 is a little bit restricted. I think Mr. Reid's bill goes too far. I am more in favor of the Forest Service plan. I realize that there should be in most legislative processes there will be a compromise, whether that lies between the Forest Service and your bill I didn't come out with specific examples. I tend to favor more of the Forest Service then yours or the Reid bill.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. It was a little confusing in your testimony.

Mr. COLON. The people I've talked about it to and it's just conversation with individuals and they probably wouldn't come out and

say I favor one over the other. But maybe the Arch Dome region should be considered and maybe the Rubys should be. They are just thinking that some things have been left out, maybe there are certain things that shouldn't be included, the Santa Rosa's, for example, at least those I've talked to think those should be a wilderness area.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. There are a lot of people who feel that way. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Bob; I appreciate your concern and what your mentioned. We are going right on to the next panel. We are falling a little behind. We will be on panel 8, Vernon Dalton, Bob Reed, John Neff, Harvey Dahl, and Joseph Poole. Panel 9, please come up and take a seat in the front.

Vernon Dalton, I've been told will not be here. Bob Reed, we will start off with you.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT REED

Mr. REED. I am Bob Reed; I have lived all my life on a family ranch 30 miles south of Elko. During this time I have used the public lands for livestock grazing, camping, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, wood cutting, et cetera. I have had the opportunity of enjoying these activities under the multiple-use concept and feel that it works very well. As most of you will know, these activities are well regulated by the policies of the BLM and Forest Service. Since the multiple-use concept seems to be successful on our public lands, I see no reason to restrict them to single-use as wilderness would do. Therefore, I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill, since I believe that as little public land as possible should be put into wilderness areas.

As a rancher I have had first hand experience with wilderness areas, in that the Cedar Ridge WSA is in our BLM allotment. Last summer there was a fire in this Cedar Ridge allotment. As the fire trucks were putting it out, they were told to stop and get out of the WSA. Well, I believe in letting range fires burn. It is nature's way. But they should be allowed to burn only as long as personal property will not be damaged. The Cedar Ridge is a small area and our cattle and livestock wells were threatened by this fire. The livestock wells had large fuel tanks that could have exploded and burned. Luckily the fire burned out before it reached them but if the winds had continued to blow and the fire had been left to burn on its own, it could have been a costly disaster for both us and the Government. The only way firefighters are allowed to fight a fire in a wilderness area is on foot. Under high wind conditions this is a rather ineffectual and dangerous method.

I asked one of the firefighters what he would have done if the fire had continued to burn and he said that he would have used his truck and done what he had been trained to do. I would have been right beside him, but we both would have been breaking the law as it applies to wilderness areas. As it was, since the firefighters were not allowed to control the fire within the wilderness area, it burned down into our crested wheat allotment, compeletely destroying large sections of the fence and destroying an extensive amount of feed.

We have natural wilderness areas in our State now. They are wilderness areas because they have been created that way by nature, not because some Congressman from Ohio or some eastern politician decides they should be. These wilderness areas have been there for centuries and do not need to be defined or their boundaries legally set. Nature has created them rugged and inaccessible to even the most powerful four-wheel drive. Nature itself has excluded them from the multiple-use concept.

I have had the opportunity of enjoying our public lands under the multiple-use concept, and sincerely hope that my children will be afforded the same opportunity. I feel that Congressman Harry Reid has totally gone against the best interest of Nevada and its people and betrayed our trust by joining forces with Congressman Seiberling who has no concept of Western lands and how they should be managed, do inflict upon us even more restrictions on our public lands which already take up 87 percent of our State.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. John Neff.

STATEMENT OF JOHN E. NEFF, RUBY VALLEY, NV

Mr. NEFF. My name if John Neff and I am here representing myself. I have lived in the Ruby Valley since 1972 and am presently trying to survive in the ranching business. Prior to moving to Ruby Valley I lived in Anchorage, AK, where I worked as a senior field engineer for Schlumberger Offshore Services. My work there consisted of performing electrical logging surveys on oil and gas wells. The information gathered by our company enabled the oil companies to determine the size and location of their oil reservoirs and in my particular field of expertise, production logging, helped determine how to get more production out of the problem wells.

When I lived in Anchorage I first became aware of hearings such as this. One of the ones that most concerned me was the hearing on the Trans-Alaska pipeline system. This was a 200-mile pipeline to bring Alaska oil down here for in the lower 48. One of the things that greatly concerned me was the fact that the environmental lobby disapproved strongly and they were hellbent on saving the Alaskans from themselves and the lower 48 from a terrible glut of oil. Now had those people prevailed there I don't think you would have broken OPEC and I don't think you would have enjoyed the prices you are enjoying at the gas pumps today. I always question the purity and fairness of the motives of people who come from other States to save the Nevadans from themselves and save the State for future generations of people who have no particular loyality or interest in the State.

When I signed up for this hearing a while back, Senator, I indicated I was in favor of your bill. After hearing Robert Seer and following my conscious, I say I am opposed to any wilderness in the State of Nevada. Now there is one thing that would receive very enthusiastic support from myself, and that would be if you would care to modify your bill to delete the same number of acres that you propose to add to Jarbidge. I am certainly in support of that bill. I would also encourage you and Senator Laxalt and Representative Vucanovich to take Representative Reid in hand and see if he can, and Senator Seiberling can, take this 137,000 acres and locate

them in Ohio. I would also suggest that you don't waste your time in flying all over Ohio like he did here in Nevada. I think that was a terrible waste of the taxpayers' money. I also suggest if you cannot get Representative Reid to go along with the people who elected him then you might suggest that he move to Ohio with Senator Seiberling where his loyalties apparently lie.

When Senator Laxalt was here he had a little get-together over in the Elko City Park that I attended. One of the things that really concerned him at that time was the method in which these wilderness survey forms are filled out.

Senator HECHT. Your time is up, please summarize.

Mr. NEFF. Anyway, the only criteria for wilderness in Spruce Mountain was the adequate vegetative cover for visitors to hide from one another. That was the designated wilderness. Having lived in Virginia and Ohio, there are plenty of areas in Ohio and the east that qualify for that. In one final statement, those that think we should designate a certain number of acres of wilderness in Nevada I would suggest that you can consider for every 1,000 population in each State set aside 1,000 acres of wilderness for each 100,000 population so that all States either share equally in the blessing or suffer equally in the cursing. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Neff follows:]

John E. Neff
Ruby Valley, Nevada 39333

February 11, 1986

Testimony on Wilderness by John E. Neff

Honorable Senator Chic Hecht
Elko Convention Center
Elko, Nevada 89801

My name is John Neff and I'm here representing myself and other forgotten Americans. I have lived in Ruby Valley since 1972 and am presently trying to survive in the ranching business. Prior to moving to Ruby Valley I lived in Anchorage, Alaska, where I worked as a Senior Field Engineer for Schlumberger Offshore Services. My work there consisted of performing electrical logging surveys on oil and gas wells. The information gathereed by our company enabled the oil companies to determine the size and location of their oil reservoirs and in my particular field of expertise ~~xkxxxxkxxx~~, production logging, helped determine how to get more production out of problem wells.

It was during the three years that I worked in Alaska that I first became acquainted with hearings such as these. I also gained some insight as to the credibility of many of the people who testified on behalf of the environmental groups. When the Trans-Alaska-Pipeline-System (TAPS) was proposed soon after the discovery of the Prudhoe Bay oil field which is located on Alaska's now famous North Slope there was a great uproar among the environmental community. Their immediate objective was to prevent the pipeline from being built. Many arguments were advanced: 1) The hot oil coming up the oil pipes through the permafrost would melt the permafrost and cause the ground around the wells to collapse and rupture the pipe in the wells and cause great gushers of oil to spew all over the frabile tundra. 2) If that didn't happen

then most assuredly the building of a 48 inch pipeline buried in the top of the tundra would surely erupt and cause equal devastation. 3) If the pipeline were built above ground then it would wreak havoc with the caribou herds and cause them to change their migbatien trails and habits so they would starve to death and become extinct. 4) At the moment the pipeline burst it would have so many thousands of pounds of pressure that it would spew oil hundreds of miles on either side of the pipeline corridor and ruin most of the entire state. The environmentalists here hell-bent on saving the Alaskans from themselves and also saving the "lower 48" from a terrible glut of oil. It was soon after one of these outbursts of irrationality by a person testifying against the popeline that the President of British Petroleum's Alaska operations got up and asked the undersecretary of the Interior who was conducting the hearings, "How much longer do the oil companies have to defend our knowledge, when no one else is called upon to defend their ignorance?" Based on that experience I always question the purity and fairness of the motives of people who come from other states to save the Nevadans from themselsves and save the state for future generations of people that have no particular loyalty or interest in the state.

When I signed up for this hearing a while back Senator, I indicated that I was in favor of your bill adding more area to the Jarbidge Wilderness. This position was based on consultation with ranchers who lived near the area and accepted some wilderness expansion as inevitable. After hearing the testimony of Jarbidge residents that was published in the Elko Daily Free Press and after reading the affidavit of Fred Dressler who told how his ranching operation was affected by Wilderness Area I will have to follow my conscience and not support any new wilderness

addition to the Jarbidge area. I would like to state at this time, however that I would enthusiasticlally support a Hecht-Vucanovich bill if you folks would like to propose a bill that would delete from the existing Jarbidge Wilderness Area the same number of acres that you now propose to add. I feel that supporting my good friend Roberta Skelton and her neighbors who are the most affedted is my moral obligation at this time. I would also encourage you and Seanator Laxalt and Represesentatives Vucanovich and Reid to recommend to Senator Seiberling that he locate those wilderness acres in the great stabeof Ohio. I don't advocate that you waste taxpayers money and your time by chartering helicopters that cost thousands of dollars of taxpayers money and fly all over Ohio like he did here in Nevada. What I am saying is that you and our other elected officials can handle Nevada's wilderness problems and if representative Reid doesn't want to go along with the people that elected him then you might suggest that he move to Ohio where his loyalties apparently lie.

When Senator Paul Laxalt was here at the Basque Festival several years ago he had a little get together over in the Elko City Park that I atttended. At that time he was discussing with ranchers but more particualrly with miners the BLM wilderness study that included Spruce Mountain. It pointed out to me just how far off track the bureaucracy had strayed in following the intent of Congess when the origianal wilderness legislation was enacted. One of the directives in the wilderness study was to define existing mining claims. Somehow in their wisdom the good folks down in the Elko office BLM had inadvertimently missed a mining claim that exceeded ten thousand acres. The thing that bothered me most about the study however were some of the work sheetes that were filled out by the people that were out actually surveying

the ground for wilderness characteristics. One of the blanks that had to be completed on the field sheet asked "Does the area possees definite wilderness characteristics?" If the answer to that question was yes then on the lines following it said k"Please Explain". On one of the Spruce Mountain field sheets the first blank had been filled in "yes" and the following blank was explained in these words. "There is adequate vegatative cover for the visitors to hide from one another." Now if that and other ciriteria like that are what define wilderness areas then I seriously question whether the original intent of congress is being followed. If that's the case then I have to take issue with Senator Seiberling when he told me up in Lamoille canyon on July first of last year that there was no land suitable for wilderness in Ohio. I have driven through Ohio twice and have lived in Virginia. During the time I lived in Virginia I completed an Escape, Evadion and Survival course located at A.P. Hill in Fort Belvoir, the Engieneer School. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity of being there I'd like to testify that there is more adequate vegatative cover in tena acres of Ohio or Virginia than their is in ten thousand acres of land in the Spruce Mountain area. Had I been one of the natives here and had Senator Seiberling and his select group of environmental testifeers come to Lamoille Canyon a hundred and fifty years ago I would have had to have responded by replying "White man speak with forked tongue." I hope you will let Senator Seiberling know know that when he gives us the silver tongued assurances that wilderness areas are ot going to affect us that he reexamine the facts and the testimony presented here and decide if he wants to continue to speak with a forked tongue when he comes to Nevada or other states to recommend wilderness areas.

This same kind of problem seems to exist when the Forest Service is

making recommendations for Wilderness Areas. According to what I have read and what Forest Service people have told me they are required by law to make a study of all lands administered by the Forest Service to determine wilderness characteristics. That seems like a terrible waste to time and taxpayers money to me. It appears that perhaps the people interested in adding new wilderness areas should be the ones to do the studying and recommending rather than assume that every taxpayer in the nation is interested in funding recommendations for more wilderness. The approach taken by the government agencies seems to be a little backwards too. Instead of going into an area such as Jarbidge and asking the people who have lived there all of their lives what areas they would like to see locked up without roads or campgrounds or other improvements they start with the assumption that the entire area is wilderness until proven otherwise. That doesn't seem to follow the idea that this country was to be administered under a system of the people, by the people, and for the people. It's more characteristic of what went on in 16th century England and other European countries where there was a serf or peasant class that was forbidden to hunt the King's deer. Hunting was only for royalty and it was a crime for any but the upper class to hunt the King's deer. I'm not saying That all classes of people can't hunt deer in America if they want to. What I am saying is that all classes of people can not benefit from wilderness areas to the same degree. As was pointed out by Roberta and her friends,the Jarbidge Wilderness Area has caused access to many of their favorite recreation spots to be denied to them. I also notice that while motorized vehicles are not supposed to be used in wilderness areas its certainly all right for the noblemen to ride around in helicopters and do anything they wish. Apparently the law doesn't a ply equally to all classes of citizens in America.

One of the experiences I look forward to each Fall is riding up the canyons and gathering any strays that haven't come off of our forest service range before deer season starts. It usually happens on the Thursday or Friday before deer season opens. This year my brother Steve and I were up Lutts canyon looking for two bulls that had eluded us. The thing I enjoyed was not finding the two bulls but finding the people who had come to hunt. One camp in particular stands out in my mind. There were several families of retired folks, mostly in their sixties and seventies, that we visited with for about half an hour. They expressed appreciation for not locking our gates and denying them easy access to the camping area. My brother Steve and I have ranched on Lutts Creek since 1972 and have never locked any of our gates or denied access to any hunters or fisherman or others who want to cross our private land. As Steve and I rode down the canyon to home i Mentioned to him. "You know Steve it ¢wouldn't be worth a million dollars to me to lock up our gates and prevent those good people from enjoying the canyon the way they are." My point is this: Leaving the land open the way it is amounts to better multiple use of the land and more fiarness to all classes of citizens young and old alike. God appointed men to be good stewards over the earth. He didn't appoint them to take away rights of their felow citizens and be selfish with the land--most especially the Promised Land of America. Present wilderness policies and proposals are unfair, they are taking away peoples established rights such as grazing, water, and mining. Furthermore I would suggest that not only are these policies unfair they are unwise, they are unscriptural and they are most definitely unAmerican. Thank you kindly for your time and consideration Senator,

Sincerely,

John E. Neff

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Harvey Dahl.

STATEMENT OF HARVEY A. DAHL, STARR VALLEY, NV

Mr. DAHL. Since Vernon Dalton is not going to be able to be with us then this morning I've been asked to represent him. He is president of the Wells Rural Electric Co. I live on the Ruby side of the mountains and he lives on the other, east of the Humboldts. We are concerned that wilderness designation there would be an impairment to our hydroelectric plant that we have located on the end of the mountain. We are also concerned that some rights-of-ways and transmission lines might run into difficulty if this designation is brought there. When my wife, Margaret, and I were quite young we purchased a ranch in Elko County. The man who handled the transaction is a lawyer who owned the dry goods store on Commercial Street and practiced law in the old Henderson Bank building. He told us that is when a great thing that in our youth we were able to acquire such fine pieces of property in Starr Valley. He said the greatest problem you will have in our lifetime will be with the Federal Government and I've found that to be true. I've found that to be true. I owned one of the very earliest Taylor grazing permits.

I had a forest permit many years ago and I have watched a steady decline of the productivity of both BLM and adminsitered land during nearly half a century of the time. During this half century of time I've had the opportunity to travel across America and seen the beautiful farms and ranches developed in private ownership. And seeing the increase in productivity up to 300 percent per acre of these lands. I had opportunity of serving as an assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture and I learned there first hand the difficulties of management of lands by the Federal Government and I strongly recommend that we go to no more Federal Government encroachment on lands here that don't go into a program like we did in Wildhorse. There's still time but that does not have to done tomorrow. If we need wilderness, let's do it as a later time rather than now.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Dahl follows:]

I am Harvey A. Dahl, a cattle rancher from Starr Valley, Nevada, adjacent to the Humboldt National Forest.

Honorable Senator Hecht and others:

Senator, we appreciate your coming to Elko. We are pleased that you want to know what the people of Nevada want for wilderness area in our state.

We hope the final decision will not be based on the desires of people from Ohio, California, and other far off places. We do not desire to tell people in other states how their lands should be used.

For more than half a century I have traveled across America. I have been impressed by the beauty of our farms and ranches and I am deeply impressed by the productivity of these lands under private ownership. It is not uncommon to note a 300% increase in production on these private lands during the past 50 years.

I held one of the earliest Taylor Grazing permits (the fore runner to B L M) and more than 40 years ago a Forest Grazing permit. There has been a steady decline in the production of these federally managed lands over the years.

I am not persuaded that the Federal Government is capable of increased management of much more land in Nevada and I strongly urge that any designation of more Wilderness area be held to a bare minimum..

Thank you.

Harvey A. Dahl

Harvey A. Dahl
Starr Valley
Deeth, Nevada 89823
Elko County

THERE SHOULD BE NO WILDERNESS IN THE RUBIES OR IN THE EAST HUMBOLDT MOUNTAINS.

Senator HECHT. Joseph Poole.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH R. POOLE, CARLIN, NV

Mr. POOLE. I am Joseph Poole, a 53-year-old mobile home park operator from Carlin, NV. I've lived continuously in Nevada for the last 23 years. And I am a little bit biased toward mining and that you will have to understand that most of my tenants make their living from mining and subsequently most of my income comes from the mining and all of the money that I spend comes from that court. Before I give any testimony there's a news bulletin that Mr. Hecht and Mrs. Vucanovich really should know about and it's of interest to the environmentalists too. Mr. Ecklund who lives in Carlin, NV, has invented a machine that permits drilling in mountainous areas without having to use the old method of bulldozers. They can go to the outside and drill and explore in these areas now and after a couple of rain storms you can't tell were he was at. I should point out that 5 years ago people could have holders. We have to make this areas mines look like these miners out of these areas because they are going to tear it all to pieces prospecting that.

After we lock out a lot of wilderness areas more things will change but we will be stuck with what we've got. I support the Hecht-Vucanovich bill, partly because it's a lesser of two evils, but I do support some pristine areas. But I do not think wilderness area designation is the best way to protect our pristine areas. I think there are other better ways to do it. It looks like, if we don't support the Hecht-Vucanovich bill, we are going to be stuck with a worse one, so I support that.

The thing I want to address here is access to the areas. When this wilderness first started and the bill was first passed, it specified and Congress specified, roadless areas. Now lots of this I don't like, but Congress said roadless areas and that would be acceptable to me if the designation of roadless areas was an acceptable method of designating. But we have established that roadless areas are ways, that have been certified as built or maintained mechanically. And most of the roads, and I hear people here referring to them as roads, they are not roads, not because they weren't made mechanically, not because they aren't important, not because we don't use them, but because they haven't been certified. The longer a road had been around and the older it is often it's the hardest road to certify.

Senator HECHT. You will have to summarize.

Mr. POOLE. I am summarizing now, sir. These areas that are income basing what we call ways are in violation of what the original Wilderness Act was about and it's in violation of the will of most of the people. Especially the Reid bill which goes completely out of whack in passing many miles of road even though they have been named ways and ways will be destroyed in Reid's.

When he addressed that old people won't be locked out because the Reid legislation they have changed many roads to ways and it is not wayless, ways are using ways to get to your fishing hole and those ways will be closed and in Idaho right now they are erasing them with mechanical means.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Poole follows:]

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH POOLE

I am Joseph Poole, a 53 year old Mobile Home Park owner and manager. I've lived in Northern Nevada for 20 years and have a history of mining, farming, ranching, logging, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, motorcycling and hiking.

I support the Laxalt - Hect - Vucanovich Bill, because, I believe it conforms more closely to the will of the people. When the representitives of the people passed the Wilderness Bill, it was to establish Wilderness in the roadless areas. This Bill would represent the will of the people. If the identification of a road adhered to the will of the people.

Sadly this is not so, to many of what most people believe to be roads have been named WAYS. Any road that has not been certified, that it was built or maintained mechanically is a WAY not a road.

No matter how important it is, how long it has been there, how often it is used, or if it was in fact built or maintained mechanically, if not certified it is a WAY.

Often the older a road is, especially a well built road that doesn't need much maintainance, the harder they are to certify.

In Mr. Reid's circular addressing the Senior Citizen. He said they would not lose access to any fishing, hunting or recreation areas because, his Bill only pertains to roadless areas.

The fact is that Mr. Reid's Bill would cut off many of the best fishing, hunting and recreational areas that are accessable only on WAYS. The WAYS will be closed.

Right now the Forest Service in Idaho is erasing WAYS in Wilderness Areas. They call it recontouring. Access will be lost to the Senior Citizen and to every one, except a very few hikers and those who haye horses.

It's my firm conviction that when our representatives drafted the Wilderness Legislation, they did not intent to perpetuate such an atrocity against all but a very few of their citizens.

Joseph R Poole
Joseph R. Poole

CHERIE AIAZZI
Notary Public - State of Nevada
Elko County, Nevada
My appointment expires Sept. 9, 1987

STATE OF NEVADA)
)
COUNTY OF Elko)

On the 12th day of Feb, 1986, Personally appeared before me, a NOTARY PUBLIC, Joseph R. Poole, who acknowledged that he executed the foregoing document.

CHERIE AIAZZI
Notary Public - State of Nevada
Elko County, Nevada
My appointment expires Sept. 9, 1987

Cherie Aiazzi

Senator HECHT. I have to cut you off. Barabara do you have any questions of this panel?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No questions.

Senator HECHT. Panel 9. Corbin Harney for the Shoshone Nation, Dr. Stephen Price, Mike Riordan, and Gene Davis. Mr. Corbin Harney.

STATEMENT OF CORBIN HARNEY, OWYHEE, NV

Mr. HARNEY. I am here filling in for two others and my name is Corbin Harney. I am a Shoshone from this Nevada area. I say what you people are here talking about really concerns me because your forefathers had made an agreement with the Shoshone people here, made a treaty and so forth. They have never kept their part of the bargain with us. And today you guys are talking about something that we have been through for the last 200 years. The Federal Government has controlled us, took everything that we owned, took it away from us, and you people today out here are going through the same thing.

This wilderness area they are talking about is going to control you. I think that's wrong, Us people here on this part of the continent, we should work together and hold and make our living off this land. If the Federal Government controls it your not going to be able to control your land. He is going to control it for you.

I think this is really something you people have to look at. You are the ones and we've been through it like I say we have suffered and this and that. We know today you people, I see where you are at today. You are at the beginning of what we've been through. You think when they control your water, control your lands, where are you going—how are you going to make your living.

I think this is something we are all going to have to look at very closely. There's other people today talking this wilderness area. If they take it, they pass it in Congress I feel sorry for all of us. I think that's wrong. So therefore I'm, myself, opposed to this wilderness area. I don't see where we are going to benefit from it. I just can't see it. I hope you people do something about it pretty strong when you are gone from here. You can't go to the moon that's for sure. I don't think we can unless we work together here on this land because this land is given to us by the Creator for us to make our living on it.

Let's try t keep it the way the Creator has provided it for us.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Dr. Stephen Price.

STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHEN PRICE, ELKO, NV

Dr. PRICE. I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion here today. I am strongly in support of your bill. I am a dentist here in Elko. I have a wife and four small children and I'll just summarize what I have on my testimony here. But I am one of the directors in Nevada for a practical wilderness policy and have been requested to speak for the organization at this hearing.

The reason the coalition, which represents hunters, campers, ranchers, skiers, miners, senior citizens, businessmen, and veterans was organized to support your bill and to counter the excessive wil-

derness proposal put forth by the Sierra Club and Congressmen Sieberling and Reid.

Your bill protects the needs of families such as mine so that we can continue to utilize the areas that we have been using for camping and other purposes. It also provides future opportunity for campgrounds which will not be available if an area is designated wilderness because you can not build a campground in a wilderness area.

I feel that very few people consider wilderness from the family point of view. If you carefully consider wilderness it is clear that wilderness specifically discriminates against the very young, the very old and the handicapped. It is very difficult for these people to go into these areas and therefore a large percentage of the population does not have access to them.

One other point I would like to bring up. These areas in the Rubys that we are talking about now are being used for Ruby Mountain Helioski and snowmobiling and a large part of other recreational activities might be cut down on, shut down completely if the other bill goes through by Congressmen Sieberling and Reid. Your bill would save us that.

I feel very strongly as I think that vast amounts of the people here in northern Nevada feel the same way about that. I am pleased with your reasonable approach to the wilderness issue and hope you stand firm on your approach to this. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Price follows:]

TESTIMONY

DR. STEPHEN PRICE

My name is Stephen Price. I am a dentist in Elko, Nevada. My wife and I have four small children. Our family supports your bill. I am a director in Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy and have been requested to speak for the organization at this hearing. The reason the coalition which represents hunters, campers, ranchers, skiers, miners, senior citizens, businessmen and veterans was organized was to support your bill and to counter the excessive Wilderness proposals put forth by the Sierra Club and Congressmen Seiberling and Reid.

Your bill protects the needs of families such as mine so that we can continue to utilize the areas that we have been using for camping and other purposes. It also provides future opportunities for campgrounds which will not be available if an area is designated Wilderness because you cannot build a campground in a Wilderness area. No picnic tables, no water developments, no pads for campers, no restrooms, etc.

I feel that very few people consider Wilderness from the family point of view. If you carefully consider Wilderness it is clear that Wilderness specifically discriminates against the very young, the very old, and the handicapped.

I am very dismayed that the bill proposed by Congressmen Reid and Seiberling would eliminate Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski which is a real bright spot in the Elko economy during the Spring of each year. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski employs approximately 17 people directly plus provides a lot of other jobs during that period for our local economy. Because of camping, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting and families the Ruby Mountains absolutely must not be designated Wilderness.

I am pleased with your reasonable approach to the Wilderness issue and encourage you to stand firm on that position.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Mike Riordan.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL RIORDAN, JIGGS, NV

Mr. RIORDAN. I am here today to voice my support for the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill as perhaps the lesser of two evils. I am not really in favor of wilderness. I feel, however, this bill presents it in an acceptable way. I am a rancher. I am a fourth generation of Riordans who live on the Riordan Ranch in Jiggs near the base of the Ruby Mountains. I am a commercial pilot and sportsman who is concerned livestock grazing will be affected by unnecessary wilderness designation. We need vehicle access to our range land for putting out salt, fixing fences and for checking on our livestock and range conditions.

Part of our ranch is irrigated by high mountain ditch, originating in the right fork of Smith Creek. This ditch is several miles long and needs to be maintained on a yearly basis with a crawler tractor. In addition maintenance is often done on an emergency basis depending on damage caused by flooding or dams built by beaver. Wilderness proposals seen so far by us to not determine the boundary with regards to this ditch. It is very important that this ditch not be included in the wilderness area.

In the wilderness area I have to wonder if in other wilderness areas proposed by Mr. Reid encompassed improvements that are so vital to the people. The ranchers and et cetera.

I have also enjoyed hunting in the Ruby Mountains, blue grouse hunting in the high peaks has become a favorite sport of mine. Wilderness designation has the potential of closing access roads or we should call them ways, into the prime hunting areas. Wilderness designation discriminates against those who cannot walk in.

As a pilot I find that a great part of the airspace over Nevada is restricted and overflight is prohibited or difficult to arrange. Wilderness designation further restricts airspace. I use a plane to help gather my livestock and it requires flying at low altitudes. The FFA tells me to maintain at least a 2,000-foot-above-ground level over wilderness areas. This means further airspace restrictions. While working as a commercial pilot I often flew geologists and mining company representatives over much of northern Nevada as a part of their ongoing search for minerals and oil. These people told me the Ruby Mountains are mostly sterile with regard to minerals and oil. If there is no danger of extensive mining operations there is no need to protect the area from mining.

Wilderness in Nevada should only represent a cross section of the different types of Nevada geography. To lockup any more land than that is contrary to the best interests of the people of Nevada.

I hope that the wilderness legislation proposed by Laxalt-Hecht and Vucanovich will be passed as written and no compromise made with those hoping to forever tie up large amounts of our State. Thank you for coming to Nevada to hear us.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Riordan follows:]

From: Michael Riordan
Jiggs, Nevada

I support the Hecht, Laxalt, Vucanovich bill. I am a rancher. The fourth generation of Riordans to live at the foot of the Ruby Mtns. near Jiggs on the Riordan Ranch. I am also a commercial pilot and a sportsman who enjoys hunting, skiing and hiking.

As a rancher, I share other ranchers' concerns that livestock grazing will be affected by unnecessary wilderness designation. We need vehicle access to our rangeland for putting out salt, fixing fence and for checking on our livestock and range conditions.

Part of our ranch is irrigated by a high mountain ditch, originating in the right fork of Smith Creek. This ditch is several miles long and needs to be maintained at least on an annual basis with a crawler tractor. Additional maintenance is often done on an emergency basis depending on damage caused by flooding or dams built by beaver. Wilderness proposals seen so far by us do not determine the boundary with regard to this ditch. It is very important that this ditch not be included in a wilderness area!

I have also enjoyed hunting in the Ruby Mtns. Blue Grouse hunting in the high peaks has become a favorite sport of mine. Wilderness designation has the potential of closing access roads (ways) into the prime hunting areas. I hope to be able to hunt in these mountains when I am older and not as able to walk great distances. This will not be possible if the ways are closed and vehicle travel prohibited. Wilderness designation discriminates against those who cannot walk in.

As a pilot, I find that a great part of the airspace over Nevada is restricted. and overflight is prohibited or difficult to arrange. Wilderness designation further restricts airspace. I use a plane to help gather my livestock, and it requires flying at low altitudes. The FAA tells me to maintain at least 2000' above ground level over wilderness areas. This means further airspace restrictions.

While working as a commercial pilot, I often flew geologists and mining company representatives over much of northern Nevada as a part of their ongoing search for minerals and oil. These people told me the Ruby Mtns. are mostly sterile with regard to minerals and oil. If there is no danger of extensive mining operations there is no need to protect the area from mining!

Wilderness in Nevada should only represent a cross-section of the different types of Nevada geography. To lock up any more land than that, is contrary to the best interests of the people of Nevada.

I hope that the Wilderness legislation proposed by Laxalt, Hecht and Vucanovich will be passed as written and no compromise made with those hoping to forever tie-up large amounts of our state.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Gene Davis—not here.

Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No, thank you. We've had some of the most eloquent spokesmen. You all express yourself very well.

Senator HECHT. The next group is Panel No. 10. Nick Halton, Dr. John Read, and Jon Wehrenbrock.

Mr. Halton.

STATEMENT OF NICK HALTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELKO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. HALTON. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich. I am executive director of the Elko Chamber of Commerce. I am here to speak in support of the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness bill. The Elko chamber has been actively supporting this bill for some time. The alternate bills which have been introduced into Congress are simply not in the best interest of the State of Nevada, but cater to a small minority most of whom are not even residents of the State. From both an economic and recreational standpoint passage of the bill reported out of the House Insular Affairs Committee will have a depressing effect upon Nevada. The three main economic elements on which our part of Nevada depends: Ranching, mining and tourism. Withdrawal of large amounts of Forest Service lands will adversely effect all three of these elements. We in Elko currently are home to the Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operation. According to Mr. Bowers, its principal owner, while the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill allows him the freedom to continue his operation the Reid bill will effectively eliminate this thriving tourist business. I would respectively ask the committee what possible effect could this wintertime tourist business have on those who wish to enjoy a wilderness experience? The answer is: virtually none. It is hard to conceive that even the most hardy backpackers are able to penetrate the Ruby Mountains in the middle of the winter, in any significant numbers, without the assistance of some motorized vehicles. Why then should the Ruby Mountain Heli-ski be eliminated. Who are they affecting?

What about the cattlemen? How will they be affected by wilderness? We only have to look to our neighbor State to the north, Idaho, to find some good answers. Despite protests that grazing allotments are not affected by wilderness designations, the cold hard facts indicate that they are. Ranchers are eventually forced out of wilderness areas by the imposition of a variety of regulations which make it uneconomical for them to continue to graze their livestock. If the loss of AUM's is not depressing to the livestock industry, I don't know what is. Again, the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill will minimize the impact of wilderness on our ranchers and sheepmen.

I would like to address one or two other points. First, Congressman Reid frequently points out that Nevada does not have as large a percentage of public land withdrawn for wilderness as is the case with many of our neighboring western States. Through some sort of logic, we are supposed to feel ashamed of that fact. What is never discussed by Mr. Reid is the fact that Nevada has the highest percentage of public lands withdrawn for a single use of any of the

continental States. The Elko chamber feels that the total amount of lands withdrawn for a single use should be the criteria rather than just withdrawn for wilderness.

It is clear that much of the land in both your bill and the Reid bill is among the finest and most scenic in the State. I submit that the multiple use land management concepts of BLM and the Forest Service have contributed to their current condition. Continued wise management will ensure our beautiful and scenic lands will be around to benefit future generations. Withdrawal into wilderness ensures nothing. Wildfires, floods, foraging by wildlife and unchecked growth of predators can all have disastrous effects upon our public lands.

For the reasons addressed above, the Elko Chamber of Commerce supports the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill as the most practical and reasonable approach to the U.S. Forest Service land withdrawals for wilderness use. It is an approach which sets aside adequate acres for those who profess a need for pristine wilderness experience and yet one which will limit the adverse economic effects on the State. The Forest Service can continue to manage the bulk of its lands under the multiple use concept, a concept which has resulted in improvements to the land and availability to all, be they ranchers, miners, hunters, tourists, trappers or backpackers. Thank you for your attention.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Halton follows:]

TESTIMONY

OF

NICK HALTON

ELKO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Senate Subcommittee

on

Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation

Elko, Nevada

February 11, 1986

Elko, Nevada 11 February 1986

Senator Hecht and members of the Committee: I am Nick Halton, Executive Director of the Elko Chamber of Commerce and I am here to speak in support of the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness bill. The Elko Chamber has been actively supporting this bill for some time. The alternate bills which have been introduced in the Congress are simply not in the best interests of the State of Nevada, but cater to a small minority most of whom are not even residents of the state. From both an economic and a recreational standpoint, passage of the bill reported out of the House Insular Affairs Committee will have a depressing effect upon Nevada. The three main economic elements on which our part of Nevada depends are: ranching, mining and tourism. Withdrawl of large amounts of Forest Service lands will adversly effect all three of these elements. We, in Elko, currently are home to the Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski operation. According to Mr. Andy Bowers, its principal owner, while the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill allows him the freedom to continue his operationn the Reid bill will effectively eliminate this thriving tourist business. I would respectively ask the Committee what possible effect could this winter-time tourist business have on those who wish to enjoy a wilderness experience? The answer is; virtually none. It is hard to conceive that even the most hardy backpackers are able to penetrate the Ruby Mountains in the middle of winter, in any significant numbers, without the assistance of some motorized vehicles. Why then should the Ruby Mountain Heli-Skis be eliminated? Who are they affecting?

We have all heard how wilderness attracts visitors. This argument is often advanced by wilderness advocates. It certainly does attract the hardy backpackers, but these individuals, what few there are, typically purchase their freeze-dried foods at home, drive to the vicinity of the area they plan to hike in, hike for a few days and then drive home. The local communities in the vicinity are lucky to have them purchase a tank full of gas! They spend virtually no money in

the local economy and, as a group, have proven to be no repector of nature. A quick look along the Appalachian Trail is distinctly lacking in pristine experiences.

Hunting and trapping are also tourist related activities to some degree. It is obvious that as the wilderness areas get larger, the opportunity to hunt and trap becomes smaller. Anyone who has packed a deer out from the hills will tell you that they want their vehicles as close to the hunting area as possible. Hunting in Elko county is some of the best in the state. Extensive withdrawls will seriously reduce our region as a popular place for that activity. Growth of predators will also have a very serious effect on the availablity of game, even in the areas which border the wilderness.

I would like to turn for a minute to the effect upon the mining community. Where would Nevada be without its mining? Twenty years ago, who would have thought that Carlin Gold, Freeport Gold, Dee Gold and many others would be contributing to the economy of the state as they are today? What would have happened if the land they are now mining had been withdrawn into wilderness simply because the discoveries had not been made or the technology had not been developed to retrieve the minerals in economical quantities. Congress knows better than any other group with the exception of the miners, just what the national situation is with regard to the critical strategic minerals. Even so, some Congressmen are willing to lock up millions of acres of land as wilderness without any regard to future mineral needs. Congressman Reid is willing to face this problem by declaring that a mineral survey will be conducted periodically. I would suggest that a government survey of this type is hardly as effective as private sector exploration. Also, what will happen if essential minerals are

discovered? Will the Sierra Club and other wilderness advocates roll over and allow hard-won wilderness acres be released for mining? I seriously doubt that would happen. The Elko Chamber believes that the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill, with its access guarantees for mining claims located prior to the enactment of a wilderness bill, will be far more likely to protect the mining interests of the state than the alternate bill sponsored by Congressman Reid.

Finally, what about the cattlemen? How will they be affected by wilderness? We only have to look to our neighbor state to the north, Idaho, to find some good answers. Despite protestations that grazing allotments are not affected by wilderness designations, the cold hard facts indicate that they are. Ranchers are eventually forced out of wilderness areas by the imposition of a variety of regulations which make it uneconomical for them to continue to graze their livestock. If the loss of AUM's is not depressing to the livestock industry, I don't know what is. Again, the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill will minimize the impact of wilderness on our ranchers and sheepmen.

Before I conclude, I would like to address one or two other salient points. First, Congressman Reid frequently points out that Nevada does not have as large a percentage of public land withdrawn for wilderness as is the case with many of our neighboring western states. Through some sort of logic, we are supposed to feel ashamed of that fact. What is never discussed by Mr. Reid is the fact that Nevada has the highest percentage of public lands withdrawn for a single use of any of the continental states. The Elko Chamber feels that the total amount of lands withdrawn for a single use should be the

criteria rather than just that withdrawn for wilderness. Again, your bill is far superior in this regard than is the Reid bill.

Secondly, it is clear that much of the land in both your bill and the Reid bill is among the finest and most scenic in the state. I submit that the multiple use land management concepts of the BLM and the Forest Service have contributed to their current condition. Continued wise management will ensure that our beautiful and scenic lands will be around to benefit future generations. Withdrawl into wilderness ensures nothing. Wildfires, floods, over foraging by wildlife and unchecked growth of predators can all have disastrous effects upon our public lands. A quick look at some range conditions 50 to 60 years ago will demonstrate how far we have come in improving the quality of the public lands. Good range management caused the improvements, not letting the land lie unattended.

For the reasons addressed above, the Elko Chamber of Commerce supports the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill as the most practical and reasoned approach to the US Forest Service land withdrawls for wilderness use. It is an approach which sets aside adequate acres for those who profess a need for a pristine wilderness experience and yet one which will limit the adverse economic effects on the state. The Forest Service can continue to manage the bulk of its lands under the multiple use concept, a concept which has resulted in improvements to the land and availablity to all, be they ranchers, miners, hunters, tourists, trappers or backpackers.

Thank you for your attention.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Dr. Read.

STATEMENT OF DR. JOHN M. READ, ELKO, NV

Dr. READ. Thank you Senator and Representative Vucanovich. I appreciate being able to appear here to testify. I am not here to testify completely for S. 722 but rather against the Reid bill. This has become and always has been an emotional issue. So we have to decide things more on emotions than we are reason and logic. We get down to the point almost we are kind of name calling and using terms like pristine and save-it-for-our-future-generations and locked out, catch phrases such as that. I hope in deliberations in Washington that reason will prevail rather than emotionality.

The reason I am opposed to the Reid amendment is because it's too much. I am not against wilderness, probably nobody in this room and in the United States is totally against the concept of wilderness. I believe in multiple use. I believe Government regulations has already put restrictions on mining and incidentally I sure appreciate the geologists remarks up here but these restrictions and plans despite his greed and whatnot will suffice. I listened to Bobby Skelton today and the Jarbidge area people. I might address myself just a moment to that. I don't believe this should be enlarged at all. Torgeson, God rest his soul, if some of you remember A.R. Torgeson who was a head ranger here in the Humboldt district a number of years back. He got me interested in wilderness, because Torgeson invited me and others to see what he would like to have as wilderness. This was in the Torg's favorite spot. From Pole Creek Ranger Station down to John Day Creek up the other side in the beautiful Seven Peaks area they called the Bruneau. I have since been back but I can only peek in because unfortunately I've developed arthritis and I can't walk very well. I would be "locked out", that's why I resent the amount of land designated as wilderness. Keeping me out of so-called wilderness, who have all my life been active in hunting and fishing. And one time in fact a group of us in 1950 explored the snows before it melted and looked at the Ruby Mountains and hiked it over for economic potential and we did come close to getting to the Tent Mountains and another area just as beautiful.

In conclusion I hope the deliberations in Washington will be based more on logic and reason than on emotion.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Read follows:]

TESTIMONY

JOHN M. READ, MD
Elko, Nevada

I am Dr. John M. Read. I was licensed in Nevada and in Elko County in 1949 and began partial retirement two years ago. I am in favor of the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill and strongly oppose the Reid bill.

I would like first to present some armchair thoughts regarding the Wilderness question; then give some personal background and basis for such ideas and lastly make a comment on why I fear the concept of giving "too much" to the government.

The issue of "Wilderness" in general - ie whether we should have some or none - is so emotionally charged that reason and logic have come to play very minor roles. I liken it to the nuclear energy question. These questions have destroyed friendships and disrupted family ties. One simply does not discuss questions of preservation of nature (Wilderness) or nuclear energy with a fellow worker at coffee break - unless he happens to be on your side. These questions are so tainted with emotion that a reasonable discussion is impossible.

No one is against preserving our lands - National Parks and monuments antedated the move for Wilderness areas. There was, as far as anyone as young as I can recall, no real opposition to this. There conservation and preservation could exist side-by-side with sightseers and conveniences for old and young alike.

Then the concept of "Pure Wilderness" and the opposing "Multiple Use" arose and immediately each was on a collision course - and as I have said - emotion played a far greater role than reason. But with relatively little opposition from the group that championed "Multiple Use" - eg ranchers, miners, loggers, campers and snowmobilers - "Pure Wilderness" areas were created. The coalition that formed the proponents of "Pure Wilderness" was made up primarily of Government employees (Forest and Wildlife Services), the Sierra Club and related groups. Their arguments were strong - but based more on emotion than reason. Their tactics were subtelty fierce. First: guilt - 1) Do you want to be responsible for the extermination of a species (eg pup fish)? 2) Do you want our more scenic areas destroyed by erosion, tree cutting and road building before your children and their children can see these wondrous sites? Such guilt is hard to bear - a "yes" answer puts you far to the right of Attila the Hun and into the group against apple pie and motherhood. Such guilt is hard to bear - so with such tactics the "Pure Wilderness" advocates got their Wilderness areas.

Now these same advocates want more - and I submit that the added factor of quantity does not reduce the element of emotion - but rather increases it. How can one rationalize increasing our present Wilderness area designation from 64,000 acres to one of over a million? Proponents of such a program -

made up primarily of the wealthy, selfish, elitist troops represented by the Sierra Club - could never, by their guilt and scare tactics raise my emotions to the level that my reason would grant them the right to exclude 80% of our Nevada citizens from 1 million acres of their land.

Man has a right to use his land. Not as he sees fit - but beyond his moral inhibitions and despite his greed, there are layer upon layer of Government regulations which prevent such excesses.

Let me tell you that I have been much closer to this Wilderness question than many realize - some because you are too young. I was fortunate, along with 2 or 3 of my close friends, to be taken, on horseback, on two trips designed by a great champion of preservation and a lover of wildlife - Torgerson, Chief Forest Ranger for the Humboldt District in the 1950's and 60's.

The first of these was from Green Mountain in the Rubies to Lamoille. Torgerson's purpose on that trip was to point out the effect of sheep grazing on the surface soil and its promotion of erosion. I learned, and was impressed - but not 1 million acres worth.

The second trip, also on horseback and also organized by Torgerson was into what has become the Jarbidge Wilderness area. From Pole Creek Ranger Station, down John Day Creek to the

East Fork of the Jarbidge River and up the west side to Emerald Lake at the foot of Cougar Peak in the marvelous mountains - called the Seven Peaks of the Bruneau. I have since been up to the east boundary of this beautiful area - but because my lamness was only able to "peak" in.

It may seem to many of you that I am betraying Torgerson's trust in now speaking against the wholesale grab of 936,000 acres, but I do not feel this. My logic and reason, and I hope that of our Congress, will prevail over emotion and sentimentality and provide the much more reasonable amount - the 137,000 acres - as specified in the bill proposed by our elected representatives - Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Congressman Vucanovich.

In closing I feel compelled to issue a warning - something you already know. Once you have given this huge amount of land - 15 fold greater than now - to the Federal Government you have lost all control over it. That might not sound startling or unbearable - but I am reminded of the events that occurred in a Federal program with which I am intimately familiar. Despite promises to the recipient and the provider in the Medicare Act, the slow, inexorable, heavy hand of the bureaucrat has changed the ruler beyond recognition and to the detriment of recipient and provider alike. It strikes terror in my soul to think of releasing another 936,000 acres to control of the bureaucracy, the whim of starry eyed idealists and the exclusion of 80% of our citizens.

Senator HECHT. Barbara, do you have any questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No questions for the panel.

Senator HECHT. Before I conclude I would like to introduce two gentlemen who are in the audience, Bill Farr runs my Reno office and Pete Kelly runs the Carson City office. Both these gentlemen are in your area quite often if you have any further information. Kelton Abbott, who has been representing Senator Laxalt here, I would reintroduce.

We have heard from many witnesses this morning and I want to point out to them the hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can request a copy of the testimony from my offices in Reno or Las Vegas or Carson City or in Washington from the committee.

I want to thank all of you who came out this morning.

Barbara?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator, I also would like to introduce Pete Ludwig. Pete manages my office here in Elko and is here to deal with the problems that any of you might be having. Although I don't think she is here, Fran Thiercof helps Pete keep track of all of your needs. Again, thank you, I will add my thanks for your testimony and I appreciate all of you coming. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. This hearing is in recess.

[Whereupon, the hearing was recessed, to reconvene Wednesday, February 12, 1986, in Winnemucca, NV.]

63-105 O - 86 - 12

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

Winnemucca, NV.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Winnemucca, NV, Hon. Chic Hecht presiding.

Present: Senator Hecht.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. Good morning, everyone. Neither rain nor snow nor sleet nor ice will keep the Senate Energy Committee from having a hearing today.

I want to thank all of you for coming out this morning, those of you who will be presenting testimony, as well as those who will not be testifying, but who, by your presence here, are showing us how important the wilderness and national park issues are to you.

I am very pleased to be holding this hearing in Winnemucca today. The Senate Energy and National Resources Committee has a limited budget for a hearing such as this, and there are many duties to keep the U.S. Senator busy in Washington, but I decided many months ago that the financial and time constraints are clearly outweighed by the importance of giving the people of Nevada the fullest opportunity to express their views on wilderness and a national park.

I have heard quite often from organizations such as the Nevada Department of Minerals and the Sierra Club, but this is my chance to hear from the people of Nevada.

This is the 3rd of 5 hearings I am holding each day this week across the State. Since each hearing location is several hundred miles from the next, and many people wish to testify, it is necessary for each person testifying to limit their oral remarks to 3 mintues. Written statements will be included in the official record in their entirety and will be given equal weight with oral testimony.

In order to make sure we have a full 3 minutes for each witness, I would generally try to limit my questions here and now and instead will contact you later with any questions I might have after having an opportunity to reflect on the testimony.

We are here in the State to begin the legislative process in the Senate Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation

Subcommittee that will decide the general uses of the national forest in Nevada.

The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area and use decisions.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see such a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit the oral testimony to 3 minutes. I ask that you withhold applause and comments as it will cut into the witness' time.

Any additional materials, maps, et cetera, you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington.

The hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can submit a copy to my offices in Las Vegas or Reno or the subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition. Please summarize your statements.

There will be a printed hearing record of all five hearings which you can obtain by filling out a self-addressed sticker at the table indicated.

Where is that, Tony? Right out in the lobby. A copy will be sent to you in a few months.

Witnesses are asked to please hold on to their written testimony until their panel is called to the witness table. We ask all witnesses to look at the order in which they are scheduled to testify, and if you are in the next panel, just as the panels are called up, come to the front-row seats.

It's just like a baseball game, a panel testifying, one on deck, the rest in the audience. The lights are used to time the witnesses right here. Green means go. Yellow means 1 minute remaining. Red means complete your sentence or thought and stop.

Before we get started, I want to set the record straight on three points:

First, there has been a lot of confusion about the national park proposal. I will not be taking a firm position on this issue until I've heard from all of you and the other Nevadans who will be testifying this week.

You should know that you are not going to be forced to choose between either a national park or wilderness.

You do have a third option: Keeping things as they are now. If the people of Nevada want to keep the land just as it is now, I will work to make that happen.

Second, the national forest wilderness controversy will not be the last time Nevadans will deal with the wilderness issue. This is not the last chance we will have to create wilderness in our State, and it is not the last time we will have to examine the appropriateness of wilderness designation for our State.

Even as we speak, the Bureau of Land Management is busy developing its own wilderness proposals, reviewing millions of acres of public land for possible wilderness status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering another million acres or so for wilderness status. Even the National Park System may have a modest proposal of its own.

Third, as you all probably know, I cosponsored one of the wilderness bills before the Congress. This bill took a deliberately conservative approach to wilderness designation in our State.

It has been endorsed by most of the State's county commissions and by the State legislature. I think this indicates that the bill has some public support in Nevada, but I am not locked in concrete about making some adjustments, either way, if that is the will of the people in Nevada.

I look forward to your testimony. Just a few short introductions, and then we are going to proceed right along because we are on a very strict time frame.

Allan Hanssen is here representing Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich, who had hoped to be here, but she and her husband had to be in Ely last night, and it was impossible to drive over. Allan is right over here.

Scott Cameron is in my office in Washington.

Tony Bevinetto is from Washington from the committee staff, and he has worked on the wilderness issue in many States for many, many years.

Kelton Abbott at the other table is representing Senator Laxalt who is very interested in this.

Senator Laxalt, Barbara Vucanovich, and myself all introduced the same bill.

We have just a few people I want to introduce.

Assemblywoman Gaylyn Spriggs, who has been following the wilderness, is in the back. Where are you? Stand up, Gaylyn.

Any elected official who is going to testify, I won't introduce at this time.

Sheriff Jim Bagwell. Where are you, Sheriff? Thank you.

And we are very privileged today that we have the student government class from Lowery High School to observe, and I want to congratulate all of you students who come out here. We appreciate the fact that you have taken such an interest in this number one critical proposal in our State.

Would all of you please stand up? Let's give them a hand.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. We are going to have the first panel come up. John Marvell is listed later, but he will be on the first panel. He is on a tight timeframe.

John Marvell, Mayor Warren Scott, Commissioner Tebeau Piquet, Commissioner Darrell Taylor, Commissioner Sammye Ugalde, and Sheriff James Bagwell.

I had you no here, Sheriff.

I have a lot of typographical errors in my witness list. So, if I don't pronounce your name just exactly right, please correct me.

Come on up here. We're going to get started.

John, you can take the first seat right here. Assemblyman John Marvell, you can start off.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MARVELL, NEVADA DISTRICT NO. 34 ASSEMBLYMAN

Mr. MARVELL. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

For the record, I'm John Marvell, rancher from this area, also assemblyman for District 34 which includes all of Humboldt County, all of Pershing County, parts of Lander County, and about two-thirds of Washoe County.

I appreciate your courtesies for allowing me to come in very impromptuitively to testify this morning, but more importantly, I want to welcome you also to Winnemucca, but I think it's very important that you are out in the areas where we are going to be affected, something that your counterparts in the House of Representatives have refused to do.

So, I think you should be highly commended for being, not only in Winnemucca today, but Elko, Ely and, of course, in Reno and Las Vegas. I think this is what the contingency demands of those of us who are elected representatives.

As you know, I also served on the Natural Resource, Agriculture and Mining Committee along with Assemblywoman Spriggs who is vice chairman of the committee.

As you know, AJRI was first heard in the Assembly Committee, and I might be very candid by saying I personally am not a proponent of wilderness, but we felt, being, I think political realists, that AJRI which supports the Laxalt-Hecht Senate bill and, of course, the Vucanovich House bill, is a very reasonable compromise if any wilderness at all is to come to fruition.

And I would certainly hope, Senator, that because you more or less mentioned some of the, pitfalls of wilderness and some of the rather disastrous effects it may have on the economy and lifestyle of the people of Nevada, that when you do go to conference your bill will be the maximum allowable under the RARE II study.

As far as I'm concerned, there is no middle ground. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. John, I know you have to leave, and though I'm going to question the panel, I just want to ask you one question now for the record.

Our Nevada Legislature endorsed your bill; is that correct?

Mr. MARVELL. Absolutely. On AJRI, I think the vote was 60 to 3 opposed. One of the opposition votes was not against you bill, just against the concept of wilderness in totality.

Senator HECHT. And the entire legislature voted on it, and the Governor signed it?

Mr. MARVELL. The Governor signed it, and it has been so submitted to you and various members of the staff.

Senator HECHT. I just wanted to have that for the record. I know you've got a long drive. So, feel free to leave.

Mr. MARVELL. Thank you very much, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Tebeau, you are next.

STATEMENT OF TEBEAU PIQUET, CHAIRMAN, HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND VICE PRESIDENT, NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Mr. PIQUET. Good morning, Senator Hecht. I am Tebeau Piquet, chairman of the Humboldt County Commissioners and vice presi-

dent of the Nevada Association of County Officials. I govern the body that represents all 17 counties within the State of Nevada for the primary political subdivision that this legislation will affect.

It is important for us to have legislation to preserve, protect, and diverse needs and interests of Nevada and its people. Nevada's needs are unique with our public land statistics and the resources compromise each county must make with respect to its own fiscal stability.

The economic well-being of Nevada, particularly its more rural communities, depends heavily on access to and the use of public lands for mining and ranching. The loss will be harmful not only to this State but the Nation as well.

As elected officials, we are charged with the responsibility of insuring access to public lands. I don't call hiking into public lands as having access for the most part. That is for the very select few that have that much time and energy.

Access today, as we know it, is a very important part of our quality of life whether it be for recreation, outdoor sports, agriculture, or mineral exploration. The large majority of all jobs in America are the result of mining or agriculture in one form or another.

Our lifestyle and economies dictate multiple use as much as possible to insure our quality of life. Let's limit our wilderness to a responsible level of land that meets the qualifications. Don't take a broad-brush approach.

We already have over 5½ million acres of single-use designated land now in Nevada. We know that the Bureau of Land Management will be approaching another 4 million acres for wilderness in a year or so.

I join in the Coalition of Nevadans for Practical Wilderness policies supporting that wilderness bill introduced by Senators Hecht, Laxalt, and Congresswoman Vucanovich. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Mayor, you were first on the agenda, and I looked to Tebeau. So, you follow next.

STATEMENT OF WARREN J. SCOTT, MAYOR, WINNEMUCCA, NV

Mayor SCOTT. Thank you, Senator.

I believe Tebeau did a pretty good job of covering all the points.

I am Warren Scott. I represent the city council and also the Recreation Board of Winnemucca, Humboldt County.

The city passed a resolution which outlined pretty much what Tebeau said: I'll quote the final paragraph.

> City council, city of Winnemucca, do resolve: Designation by Congress of any additional wilderness in the State of Nevada is hereby opposed unless each specific element in each wilderness proposal is first examined and found not to adversely impact the economy of Nevada in any of the respects outlined above, nor in any other respects.

I might say that the council as a whole is against any changes, but we also recognize the political realities. But we feel that there should be some very close scrutiny of what is made wilderness.

One of the things I'd like to mention is that I haven't heard in any of these wilderness discussions the fact that we do have a 25,000-acre antelope range out here, and this administration has

more authority than the Wilderness Administration to restrict the movement on that area.

And I think that when we talk about total wilderness area, that's a possibility that could be included in that figure too, not 64,000, but properly 85,000 or 90,000 acres.

And I've also had many ladies come to me and say that they've been able to enjoy much of this area riding in passenger cars and pickups but which they won't be able to do in the future if it's designated wilderness.

I know that the metropolitan definition of roads is crossed off a lot of our accesses, but then, so, that's a concern of many of the ladies in this State, too, I believe, in the community. But that's pretty much what I have to add.

Thank you.

[The resolution follows:]

Summary: Opposes increased wilderness designation unless first proved not to adversely impact rural Nevada economy

Resolution Number 86-1

WHEREAS, Nevada has had a wilderness area designated in the Jarbidge area, and

WHEREAS, the national wilderness studies have reviewed many other areas as being suitable for wilderness designation, and

WHEREAS, several bills for additional wilderness in Nevada have been proposed, and

WHEREAS, great concern has been expressed that designation of additional wilderness could cause damage to the Nevada economy by possibly adversely effecting the rancher's management of livestock grazing, by possibly placing Nevada's water rights laws in jeopardy, by possibly reducing hunting and recreation potential to a greater extent than designation of additional wilderness areas might enhance the same, and by having an adverse impact upon mining if the selected areas have mineral potential, and,

WHEREAS, given the increasingly sad state of the rural economy in America in general and in Nevada in particular, with agriculture, most mining and much tourism related industry taking a very severe beating, coupled with the Federal intention to attempt to balance its budget deficits at what appears to be the substantial expense of state and local government and their taxpayers, now is not the time to further aggravate the rural economy by impacting adversely on the livestock, mining, tourism industries and setting aside the long established water laws of Nevada and the other western states, now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNEMUCCA DO RESOLVE:

1. Designation by Congress of any additional wilderness in the State of Nevada is hereby opposed unless each specific element in each wilderness proposal is first examined and found not to adversely impact the economy of Nevada in any of the respects outlined above, nor in any other respect.

2. The City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the members of the Nevada Congressional delegation.

Passed and adopted on February 4, 1986.

CITY OF WINNEMUCCA

By Warren J. Scott

Warren J. Scott

George D. Shier
Councilman, 1st Ward

Paul R. Mortenson
Councilman, 2nd Ward

Terry W. Miller
Councilman, 3rd Ward

Attest:

Marguerite E. Mowry
City Clerk

6w2775 g53

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Mayor.
Darrell Taylor.

STATEMENT OF DARRELL L. TAYLOR, HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Mr. TAYLOR. Good morning, Senator Hecht. I'm Darrell Taylor, one of three Humboldt County Commissioners, and I'm speaking on behalf of the Humboldt County Commissioners.

In 1979 and 1986, the Humboldt County Commissioners have passed resolutions referring to wilderness in Nevada, and I have attached copies of those to my speech.

Senator HECHT. That will all be part of the record.

Mr. TAYLOR. The mining, farming, ranching, tourism, sportsman, utilities, and even search and rescue are affected by the large areas requested by either Congressman Seiberling's bill or Congressman Reid's amendment or bill.

The only area in Humboldt County control is in the Santa Rosa Mountain Range. This area has been reviewed by the Forest Service previously, and due to the roads, fences, et cetera, it is not considered by them as being wilderness.

Why then does Mr. Seiberling of Ohio or Mr. Reid of southern Nevada, who does not even represent this part of the State, feel it should be locked up from all but a few Sierra Club backpackers?

The people of rural Nevada affected by this wilderness bill are the only ones that really know the impact to the ranching and mining economy of this State. The populus city dweller has no idea of what exists in our State, and for the majority, could care less.

We must not let the Seiberling or the Reid amendment be adopted as this would open the doors for BLM wilderness proposals of multimillion more acres.

Senator Hecht, I would like to personally thank you for coming to rural Nevada and listening to the people of this State rather than making your deliberations in Washington.

Thank you.

[The resolutions follows:]

SUMMARY: SUPPORTS THE BILL SUBMITTED IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS LAXALT AND HECHT AND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY REPRESENTATIVE VUCANOVICH REGARDING AN ADDITION TO WILDERNESS IN NEVADA.

Resolution No.

WHEREAS, Nevada currently has a Wilderness Area designated Jarbidge Wilderness, which comprises 64,667 acres; and

WHEREAS, the additions proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would increase the area designated Wilderness to 132,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, any additional designation in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich would create unreasonable, adverse impacts on the residents of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the adverse impacts of additional Wilderness designation in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich include, but are not limited to the following: deterioration of Nevada economy, severe curtailing of livestock grazing, restrictions on water rights, reduction in ranching, reduction in mining, and reduction in recreation; and

WHEREAS, because of the above stated adverse impacts that would be imposed on Nevada residents with an additional designation of Wilderness over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, the reasons supporting only the addition to Wilderness in Nevada as proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich are reasonable and the action is herein justified.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA, AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

1. The additional Wilderness proposed by

Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Respresentative Vucanovich is supported.

2. Any additional Wilderness in Nevada over that proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich is opposed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on January _____, 1986.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA

By _____

_____

_____

ATTEST:

_____
SUSAN E. HARRER, County Clerk

SUMMARY: Requests Criteria for Wilderness Designation

Resolution No. 8-2-79A

WHEREAS, the BLM is currently conducting studies with a view of delineating lands which it intends to transfer to wilderness status, and

WHEREAS, wilderness areas by standards under which they are administered are forever closed to all but a very small elite group of almost professional "conservationists" and a possibly even smaller group of citizens who have the time, money and physical ability to enjoy an outdoor experience in the wilds, uncontaminated by the "internal combustion engine", and

WHEREAS, the protection of some appropriate wilderness areas for these purposes for present and future generations is a laudable goal and one which should be pursued, but

WHEREAS, the use of the public lands of the west for several generations has primarily followed a multiple use concept, encouraging the compatible uses of the land by as many segments of our society, from a social standpoint as well as from an economic standpoint, and

WHEREAS, this concept, together with the original policy to encourage the building of towns, farming and mining, has built the west into the most desirable area in the United States to live in and has produced the wealth of mineral and agricultural resources that have enabled all of America to prosper and grow into the world's leading economic power and to permit its citizens to enjoy standards of living unprecedented in the history of mankind; and

WHEREAS, had his nation been unfortunate enough to have fallen under the spell of the environmentalist in the mid 1800's the west would never have been developed or at best only smally pockets of population would exist, Lincoln would not have had the wealth of the Comstock Lode with which to finance the War between the States, the country would not have had the mineral and agri-

cultural resources necessary to wage and win two World Wars including providing most of the supplies needed by our Allies, and the country's eastern population would have been denied the vast resources of the west as well as the space for its population to overflow into, and

WHEREAS, contrary to some widely held beliefs, the hand of man on the west has not resulted in its destruction, and

WHEREAS, as much beauty is found in an occasional deserted homestead with a few poplars, cottonwood, apple trees and yellow roses, or in an occasional abandoned mine gallows frame and mine dump as there is in thousands of square miles of "untouched" land, and

WHEREAS, all the public has historically had access to, and used, the vast majority of the public lands, and

WHEREAS, it is absolutely imperative that the wilderness designation program be pursued with common sense and not merely with a goal to lock up and preserve as much land as possible, now therefore,

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA:

1. The multiple use concept of the use of the public lands should be preserved, insofar as possible.

2. Reasonable, usable access to the vast majority of the public lands, must be preserved.

3. Long time existence of roads of whatever type and quality, into various areas of the county must not be ignored.

4. Long vested water rights, which according to long accepted law are within the sole jurisdiction of the states, must be preserved.

5. Fish and wildlife, which according to law and custom are within the sole jurisdiction of the states.

6. The lives of and the way of life of the public should not be disturbed.

7. The mining industry should not be unduly hindered.

8. The livestock industry should not be unduly hindered.

9. Wilderness designations should be applied sparingly, only to those areas which are so unique and untouched as to justify and require preservation for generations to come. Areas to which the public has obviously had access and has used, as evidenced by the existence of roads--no matter how well maintained--in other words an area which has been used by members of the public by vehicles can hardly be said to be truly of wilderness quality.

10. BLM officials should be mindful of and responsive to our nation's ever increasing need for additional mineral resources and for additional energy resources--especially when considering designation of areas which might be necessary for transmission lines, plants, mines, access roads, and all other facilities necessary to the foregoing.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: July 19, 1979

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NEVADA

By _____
PETE E. BENGOCHEA, Chairman

Sammye Ugalde
SAMMYE UGALDE, Member

Alan Beck
ALAN BECK, Member

ATTEST:

Grace W. Bell
GRACE W. BELL, Humboldt County
Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of
the Board of County Commissioners

I DARRELL L. TAYLOR swear that the testimony attached hereto is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Darrell L Taylor

Suscribed and sworn to before me on this 17th day of February 1986.

Susan E Harris
~~NOTARY PUBLIC~~
Humboldt County Clerk

Senator HECHT. I thank you very much.
Sammye Ugalde.

STATEMENT OF SAMMYE UGALDE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Mr. UGALDE. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

My name is Sammye Ugalde. I am a native Nevadan, rancher's wife, mother, county commissioner, and by the Governor's appointment, a member of the State Land Use and Advisory Council and the State Multiple-Use Advisory Council.

As a commissioner and member of two State committees, we have asked Federal agencies for a social-economics impact study on what effect designated wilderness will have on our communities and our State. As yet, no response.

We know multiple use is out. We know grandpa's taking his grandchild to a favorite mountaintop stream and teaching him or her about nature, wildlife, and fishing is out. The handicapped aren't even being considered.

Mining will be nonexistent. The livestock operator will be caused a hardship as people and people stress causes animals to head for the flats. There will be no water maintenance or development, nor control of fire, noxious weeds, and pests.

But we don't know about search and rescue, fish and wildlife management, policing, loss of taxes, who will pick up the tab for the injured, our indigent funds, which are in financial trouble already?

Our 1985 State legislature, 16 of the 17 counties, cities, towns, and the majority of the interest groups and users of the land have agreed to 156,900 acres.

If Congress, designated wilderness advocates in the Federal Government, don't stop playing with Nevada and listen to Nevadans, we will no longer have an identity. We will be known as the U.S. military, wild horse park, refuge and wilderness areas—you know, the one out West.

That would be a real loss, especially since Nevada and its silver and gold production helped the Union win the war between the States. Has everyone forgotten?

My family is a typical old-time Nevada family. We are involved in and care for our State. Members of my family have been and still are school board members, volunteer firefighters, fire chief, State senator, juvenile probation board members, county commissioner, and numerous other positions.

There are hundreds of families like mine in this county and thousands in this State. We have worked hard to maintain our lifestyle. We love Nevada. Don't our concerns count anymore?

In summary, I say Congress designated wilderness advocates and Federal Government, back off. Let us hold on to our identity as Nevadans from Nevada and not just from the Government set-aside area. You know, the one out West.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Sheriff.

STATEMENT OF JAMES L. BAGWELL, JR., SHERIFF, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NV

Sheriff BAGWELL. Senator Hecht, thank you for having us and coming to Winnemucca. I'm going to limit my remarks to an area that I am responsible for, and that is law enforcement here in Humboldt County.

I am extremely concerned that a designation of a large portion of Humboldt County for the State of Nevada is going to cripple our already overtaxed ability to provide law enforcement services which include search and rescue within this State.

As I understand the bill, helicopters will not be able to land. Aircraft will be limited on how low they can fly. The only way that we will be able to go in and bring out someone that's injured or hurt is on the back of a horse or carry them out, and I find that as being extremely cumbersome.

I also find it as probably being extremely expensive. There is a good possibility that we will lose lives or the possibility of a person that could have been helped at the hospital losing a limb or the use of a portion of their body because they did not receive prompt and immediate medical care.

I urge you and the other legislators to consider this fact and support only the designation of approximately 137,000 acres of Nevada for wilderness designation.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Sheriff Bagwell follows:]

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES L. BAGWELL, JR.

January 31, 1986

NAME: James L. Bagwell, Jr.

Address: 3170 North Sherwood Drive
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Age: 38, Date of Birth: February 21, 1947

Occupation: Sheriff, Humboldt County, Nevada

1. I have lived in Nevada since 1948. I have worked for the Nevada Highway Patrol and am now Sheriff of Humboldt County.

2. I am an avid hunter, fisherman and pilot.

3. As Sheriff, I am opposed to large withdrawals of land, that will effect my ability to provide law enforcement services, or search and rescue operations.

4. Law enforcement services, or search and rescue operations will become very slow, cumbersome and expensive, if mechanized transportation is limited. Lives may be lost, due to the slowness, or inability to respond, caused by overly restrictive and prohibitive regulations.

5. As a private citizen, I am concerned that most of the prime hunting and fishing areas of the State are included in the Seiberling-Reid bill. This bill appears to take the heart of every mountain range in Nevada and make it a wilderness.

6. Designation of almost every major mountain range will severely cripple Nevada's economy. Our State derives a tremendous portion of our economy from ranching and mining.

7. Much of the land included in the Seiberling-Reid bill has been surveyed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service and found not to meet the criteria of a wilderness designation.

8. I support the designation of some areas of wilderness in Nevada, but the amount of land included must be reasonable. I support the Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich proposal and view it as the only reasonable proposal.

JAMES L. BAGWELL, JR.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Sheriff.

Mayor, please expand a little bit on the antelope range. I wanted it in the record because this has not been brought up at any of the hearings, and I'd like a little better explanation so the record can better show it.

Mayor SCOTT. Thank you, Senator.

Like I said, I too have not heard at any of the hearings that we have this land set-aside. It is an antelope range in northwest Humboldt County. I think a little of it spills over into northeast Washoe County, and it is approximately five townships wide by five townships north and south plus extrusions from that of a township here, too.

And that's why I say, it's around 25,000 acres, plus or minus. I tried to get figures yesterday, but I couldn't get the exact number of acres.

Senator HECHT. We'll get them.

Mayor SCOTT. But that antelope authority or the game authority has the ability to restrict, I believe, even human entry into that area if they so desire, and they do not have to hold any hearings. They don't have to come before any committee or any delegation of any kind. They came up with that authority automatically just with the stroke of the pen, as I understand it.

And that's for the good of the antelope, which is fine. That was the way it was set up, but I understand they can also take off the rights of the cattlemen to run their cattle at their discretion without hearings.

And same with mining, any mining operations. They can terminate them if they wish.

I think the way they have managed this particular range up here, they have managed very well with respect to the needs of the people of today, but the eventualities are that, as the Sierra Club and others press harder and harder, those prairie management practices which now exist may one day terminate.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Yesterday we heard some testimony from two geologists in Elko, and the crux of it was that we are just now beginning to find the minerals in Nevada with the new technology which has been developed.

Since mining is a big part of your area, would any of you wish to comment on that?

Mayor SCOTT. I would like very much to comment on it.

New techniques in prospecting and new techniques in mining which have been developed over the last even 10 years has opened up a whole new field for the mining, and we could meet a lot of industrial needs in Nevada because we are a highly mineralized State.

And I believe a lot of that's been reiterated many, many times, but we just haven't been able to have the technology up to now to find these minerals and to extract them from the ground. And now, we are gaining in technologies to the point where we can find minerals easier and take them out of the ground in a more economical way.

And that bill will certainly take out a lot of ground from prospectors.

Senator HECHT. Tebeau, do you want to comment?

Mr. PIQUET. Yes. I will respond a little further, but I'm not in the expertise of mining, but, you know, with these new techniques and things that they can better inventory the minerals we have available.

And we know that with a wilderness designation, every 10 years, they review to expand or decrease the boundaries.

Normally, the thing is, they don't decrease; they expand, but within 1 year's period of time, we would have a better chance of inventorying these precious minerals or whatever it may be, minerals around this wilderness area.

So, I think it's imperative that we do at least get a 10-year timetable to better inventory our minerals because there is such a necessity in Humboldt County as a way of life. It's a part of our job force, a very important part or our job force. It's a very stable part of our economy, fortunately.

Senator HECHT. John, do you want to speak on that?

Mr. MARVELL. Thank you, Senator.

About a week or so ago, I did have the opportunity of visiting with Dean Moranic of the School of Mines at the University of Nevada. It's his opinion, because of the advancement in our technology, that we've only so far just scratched the surface for mineral production in the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

You know, I would like to talk to all the people of Nevada. Elected officials don't get elected consistently unless they represent the will of the people, and all of you are emphatic. You don't want any more wilderness.

Let me ask you this question: Do you want a bill at all?

Mr. UGALDE. I'd love not to have one. I don't think we need it.

Mr. MARVELL. Senator, if we could get rid of the defactos, then we wouldn't need one.

Senator HECHT. You want to comment on that, Tebeau?

Mr. PIQUET. I don't have any negative feelings about wilderness in the sense there are responsible levels of it. There are areas, I think, that are pristine that do meet the qualifications I raised in my speech. They do qualify.

But I don't like the broad-brush approach that has been taken that we know we have so many different wilderness areas coming in, whether it be for BLM, the Forest Service, the withdrawals from the naval range, and stuff like that because we have so much single-use designation already.

I just ask that we keep it at a level, a reasonable level, and not impact our rural areas any more than it will.

Senator HECHT. Well, there's been a tremendous amount of testimony that people so far in Ely and Elko don't want any bill at all. I'm going to go down the list. Would you comment on it, please?

Mr. TAYLOR. I feel some wilderness can be acceptable if it's done with realism. To take every mountaintop in the State of Nevada and say, "This is going to become wilderness," I feel, is wrong.

There's been a lot of money spent in this county fighting the legislature concerning an area in northern Humboldt County called Blue Lake which was closed to a lot of people that went in to fish and enjoy the areas. It's no longer there.

The number of people today that are over 40 or 50 that can backpack into Blue Lake and fish and enjoy it is very small, and it's sad to see this locked up from the people that have been raised in that area that would be able to use it.

Some wilderness, fine. We can take a look at it personally, but to paint every mountaintop in the State of Nevada and say it's wilderness, I think, it's wrong.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Would you like to comment on it, Sammye?

Mr. UGALDE. Senator, I agree with my fellow commissioners. I suppose there are areas that maybe should be set aside, but they are pristine now because we have kept them pristine. They are not going to change. There's enough rules and regulations on the books today that those areas can be kept pristine without being designated.

Senator HECHT. Mayor.

Mayor SCOTT. I agree with the three, four, here that the right for the Nevadans to not be able to enjoy their State is not good. We seem like we are held down more all the time on what we can do and where we can go, and this is another area where so many of us can't go that I think the few areas that could be made wilderness—there are probably a few, but then the people that use those few to get a lot, and I don't understand why they want so much. But for our practical purposes out here anyway.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Sheriff.

Sheriff BAGWELL. Yes. Senator, I agree with Commissioner Ugalde. Most of these areas that in fact would qualify for wilderness designation are extremely rugged areas that you are not going to see anything change in the foreseeable future. It's just not going to change.

These are areas that where there are no roads, and the reason the roads aren't there is because it's so rugged, and designation of these areas as wilderness probably will not change the use that's presently in those areas very much.

But to just haphazardly go out here and take every major mountain range and designate the very center, the very heart of that mountain range, as wilderness and then have the BLM come along behind and designate all the alluvial fans and lower slopes as wilderness, close the roads and reseed the roads—I don't find that as anything that's going to help Nevada. I think it's only going to cripple the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Sheriff, Tony just handed me the Wilderness Act. Section 4, paragraph C, specifically provides for vehicular use in health and safety issues.

So, if anyone gives you any problem going in there, we'll back you up.

Sheriff BAGWELL. Senator, I hate to tell you this, but I had already—prior to this hearing, I had told the county commission that if this were to happen, I probably would find myself in one of the Federal penetentiaries because we are going to do what's necessary to help the people, and overly restrictive rules and regulations be damned. I don't know what else to say.

We're going to do what we have to do, and I think you are going to find that much of Nevada feels that way.

Senator HECHT. I'm sure that's the reason you were elected sheriff.

I have no further questions of this panel. Thank you very much.

Second panel. I'll read the names.

Mr. Steve Lucas, Miss Diane Vesco, Leslie Stewart, Dorothy Hammond, Vic Anderson, and Marie Stewart.

And would the third panel please take a seat up front.

Mike Sheppard, Robert Caldwell, George Shier, Dan Harper, and John Buchon.

Steve Lucas.

STATEMENT OF STEVE LUCAS, CHAIRMAN, WINNEMUCCA UNIT, NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Steve Lucas, and I am testifying on behalf of the Winnemucca unit of Nevada Cattlemen's Association for which I am chairman. I am also testifying as a rancher and owner of the 101 Ranch in Paradise Valley, NV.

I represent approximately 60 area ranchers and members of the Winnemucca unit which run upward of 25,000 head of cattle.

The Winnemucca unit is unanimously in favor of the Hecht-Vucanovich bill and strongly opposed to the Seiberling-Reid bill.

We as ranchers and business people agree that the Seiberling-Reid bill would only be detrimental and costly to our operations and livelihood. It isn't as though the economy and agriculture alike are enduring one of their most depressed eras. How then could we ill afford a bill of this nature?

Under the Seiberling-Reid bill, it would be a futile attempt to express willingness to run livestock on the Santa Rosa Range. I know you are thinking that this is not the case and that cattle can continue to run and that grazing permits will not be in jeopardy. To this we say: hogwash.

It is written testimony, and many articles of late have appeared regarding how livestock producers have lost or withdrawn their grazing permits. This has happened in Idaho and Oregon wilderness areas. Rules and regulations make it impractical and costly to run livestock in wilderness areas.

Water rights: Probably the most important and yet controversial right that we have. These water rights would be jeopardized under the Seiberling-Reid bill. We need the water for cattle and irrigation; it is vital.

Federal control: The Santa Rosa Range is already under Federal control. By this I relate to the U.S. Forest Service. The area supervisor has the authority to eliminate areas for environmental protection. Why then do we need other agencies and environmental groups telling us that we need to protect our so-called wilderness?

The word "wilderness"—do we really know the definition? I'll tell you. "A trac or region undisturbed and uninhabited by human beings." Is this what we want? I think not. I too enjoy fishing, hunting, and outdoor life.

Congressman Seiberling flew over Nevada's Santa Rosa Range in a helicopter and declared that this beautiful range of mountains belongs in his wilderness bill. What gives our Federal Government the right to send a Congressman from Ohio to tell Nevadans that these mountains belong in this bill? Shouldn't we be the ones that declare what our mountain ranges should be used for?

It would be no different if Nevada sent Senator Hecht to Ohio, and he told the Ohioans that Ohio State could not play football and that Woody Hayes was a lousy coach. We all know better than that. They take pride in their football teams, and they love Woody Hayes just as we do our Santa Rosa Mountain Range.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my concerns and the important issue on behalf of myself and the Winnemucca unit.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Diane Vesco. Not here. OK.

Some of you that know her, just tell her that she can submit her testimony, and it will be entered just as though she read it. And I'll repeat again, you have until February 28 to provide testimony.

Leslie Stewart.

STATEMENT OF LESLIE J. STEWART, ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. STEWART. I am Leslie Stewart, a rancher testifying on behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. I am past president of that association and received a Society of Range Management, Rangeman of the Year Award.

I am also an outdoorsman who's camped extensively in the Western United States, the British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Canada. I've even backpacked a little.

So, I have experienced true wilderness. The areas suggested to be set aside in some of the bills before Congress are questionable as being true wilderness. Wilderness cannot be created by definition or legislation.

Some grazing will be permitted in wilderness areas; however, unplanned grazing can be detrimental to the natural resource. Properly managed grazing, on the other hand, is not detrimental and can in fact result in improvement.

Wilderness being the essentially unmanged area, who will move the prerogative of managing agencies and individuals to manage concentration of livestock, construct or maintain improvements for what's necessary to protect scenic areas?

Hence, there will be deterioration which will result in the reduction and eventual elimination of grazing.

Grazing is a viable and essential part of the rural economy. The fact that the land has supported multiple use for at least 100 years and much of it is still in pristine condition, raises a question if we need more restrictions and more Federal encroachment and more regulatory authority.

Further, we in the Cattle Association are concerned over the court case of *Sierra Club* v. *Block* whereby Judge Kane awarded a reserved water right to wilderness areas in the State of Colorado. We feel this decision may set a precedent that would have serious

implications in other States. Nevada's Attorney General, Brian McKay, is concerned.

Finally, there must be awareness that we now are discussing only the Forest Service wilderness areas. Millions more acres are being studied by the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM.

In view of this, Congress must be very conservative in designating wilderness until total acreage is known. The Forest Service already has the ability to designate primitive, scenic, and roadless areas. We don't need any more.

We feel that the Laxalt-Hecht bill is best for the majority of Nevadans provided we need any wilderness at all.

Nevada Cattlemen's Association thank you for listening to our views, a courtesy which Congressman Reid and Seiberling apparently feel we are not entitled to. Thank you, Senator.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Stewart follows:]

Statement of Leslie J. Stewart, Paradise Valley, NV

I am Leslie Stewart, a rancher from Paradise Valley, testifying on behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. I have been involved in livestock production and range management all my life. I am a Past President of the Association and have received the American Society of Range Management, Nevada Section, Range Man of the Year award. I am also a hunter and outdoorsman who has hunted, camped, and backpacked in much of the western United States, Yukon, British Columbia and Northwest Territories of Canada. Hence I have experienced much true wilderness. As a result of my experience, I believe very little of the areas set forth in some of the bills before Congress should be considered as true wilderness. Defacto wilderness cannot be created by definition or legislation.

Grazing, where previously established will be permitted in wilderness areas. However, unmanaged grazing can be detrimental to the natural resource Properly managed grazing, on the other hand, is not detrimental and in fact can result in improvement. This can be observed on several local Forest Service, BLM and private management systems. Wilderness is essentiall an unmanaged area. Without the perogative to manage concentrations of livestock and construct and maintain range improvements, specific areas of the range will deteriorate, resulting in reductions and possible elimination of grazing. Grazing is a viable and essential part of the rural economy of Nevada. The Hecht-Laxalt bill offers the best solution to continued productive grazing in wilderness areas that will not degrade the environment.

The fact that the land has supported multiple use for 150 years or more, with much of it still in pristine condition, speaks well for the multiple use concept of management. Let us continue a proven successful system. Land managing agencies already have authority to designate special use areas. This, without additional encroachment and regulative authority by the Federal Government.

Further, we in the Cattle Association are especially concerned as to the effect of wilderness designation on States water rights. At the present time there is an effort on the part of the Federal governement to gain control of States water rights. Federal control of the water poses a threat to long standing, legal decreed and vested water rights. We are especially concerned in view of the Colorado decision handed down by Federal Judge Kane in the recent case of Sierra Club vs. Block. In this case 24 wilderness areas were granted an "overall reserved water right". We feel this decision my set a precedent that could have serious implications in other states. Nevada's Attorney General, Brian McKay is concerned.

Finally, there must be awareness of the fact that we are now discussing only Forest Service wilderness areas. There are millions more acres that are being studied by the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife Service. What we are looking at today is a small part of the total. In view of this we must be very conservative in designating wilderness before the total acreage is known. We feel that the Hecht-Laxalt proposal is best for businesses and citizens of the State of Nevada.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association thanks you for holding these hearing and allowing us to present our views. A courtesty with Congressmen Seiberling and Reid apparently felt we were not entitled to.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Dorothy Hammon.

STATEMENT OF DOROTHY HAMMON, ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU

Ms. HAMMOND. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I am Dorothy Hammon, rancher and a representative of Nevada Farm Bureau. My husband and I are partners in a fouth generation pioneer ranching family which have been grazing cattle in Humboldt and Elko Counties since 1860.

Our concerns are the effects of the new wilderness and proposed wilderness on the whole State of Nevada. Agricultural lands in Nevada total 10,000,000 acres and 600,000 head of range cattle. The economics of ranching and farming in Nevada is at an alltime low.

Since cattle grazing is a way of life in Nevada, reduced grazing and the possible loss of water rights, which recent litigation shows that they could be in danger of being lost to local and State control in the new wilderness area, would have an economic impact.

In other wilderness areas in other States it has been proven that the cattlemen have been phased out by regulations and restrictions in the wilderness areas.

I would like to refer to the agricultural tax base in Humboldt County. The total agriculture acreage is 1,082,000 acres. Assessed valuation is $14½ million. Improvements, $4,746,000. Agriculture revenue of Humboldt County is $51,000. The whole State of Nevada receives 13 percent of the revenue from agriculture.

Restrictions would greatly affect ranching and farming in Nevada and our tax base in Humboldt County; therefore, we do not want any new wilderness or proposed wilderness areas in Nevada. The no-managemnet policy that applies to these areas has resulted in degradation of resources with noxious weeds and uncontrolled fires.

We would like our water rights, grazing, and historic uses to remain the same. And I'd like to thank you, Senator Hecht for being open-minded and touring the State of Nevada. I'm sure you'll do us a good job back in Washington.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I wish I had all the votes myself.

VIC ANDERSON. Not here either? Please give him the message about his testimony also, if you would.

Marie Stewart.

STATEMENT OF MARIE STEWART, PARADISE VALLEY, NV

Ms. STEWART. My name is Marie Stewart. I have lived in Humboldt County for most of my life; in Paradise Valley for the past 27 years. If we must have wilderness, I support the Laxalt-Hecht wilderness bill which I feel is a practical proposal that we can all live with.

I decidedly oppose both the Seiberling and Reid bills. We are all aware that the Seiberling bill follows the dictates of the Sierra Club right to the letter, and the Reid bill follows closely the same line.

While my remarks pertain to Nevada wilderness in general, my specific area of concern is the Santa Rosa Mountains in Humboldt

County. I deeply resent that Reid and Seiberling, after one helicopter flyover, have decreed that I can never enjoy this land again unless I walk into it.

While I do not yet consider myself to be elderly or infirm, I realize I have reached an age wher I am not able to hike into this area or any other area designated as wilderness; therefore, I'm to be excluded.

This should not bother me, I know, because according to a Miss Sally Kabish, a Sierra Club member from Oakland, CA, who was interviewed in our local newspaper, the elderly and handicapped would not be locked out. They could drive to and sit at the edge of a wilderness area and look in.

I am very resentful of this out-of-State young woman telling me what I can do. In all probibility, she will never return to this area; wherras, I have lived here and enjoed it for over 50 years and would like to continue to do so.

Senator, I appreciate that you are showing a concern for the opinions of the ordinary Nevada citizen. Neither Mr. Seiberling now Mr. Reid seem to feel this was important. Even during their tour last summer, they did not request any local input; however, there was much input from the members of the Sierra Club, who, I feel, orchestrated the entire tour.

They made sure that their members were advised of the intinerary and that their people were present to lobby for their proposal. I can give you a graphic example of this.

After flying over the Santa Rosas they landed their helicopter to have lunch. Their picnic site happened to be on our private land. We were never notified. Permission to use our land was never requested, nor was our input into the wilderness issue ever solicited.

While no local residents were notified, there were a number of Sierra Club members who were waiting at the site when the helicopter landed. They were not even local Sierra Clubbers but from out of State.

I find it rather ironic that all this lobbying for wilderness was done on private land by out-of-State Sierra Clubbers while we, the landowners and other local residents, were completely ignored.

This is an example of the disdain with which we are regarded by these environmentalists, these Sierra Club-type thinkers. Our opinions are not to be considered, our feelings are of no consequence. No matter if it affects our way of life, or even if it affects our very livelihood. They want it locked up for their use and their use alone. No multiple use here—no getting along with other users.

Other users have been assaulted in the press by the wilderness proponents as being special interest groups. Of course, everyone has his own special interest. Especially the Sierra Club, who wants to restrict the enjoyment of this land to backpackers only. They are the only ones demanding exclusive use. The multiple-use concept has worked for many years and can continue to work. We need to be able to all use this land in a compatible manner. I sincerely hope the Congress will consider all the people in Nevada and not one exclusive group when it makes its wilderness decision. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I was on that helicopter tour, and we landed on your land, and your statement is absolutely

correct. I did not have the itinerary before, and we were met by people from out of State, and no one local was informed.

So, you are absolutely correct in your testimony.

They had a box lunch waiting for us. We landed. We ate our box lunch, and we took off. And I shouldn't say this, but then all of a sudden after that 25 minutes or 35 minutes, everyone was an expert.

Mr. STEWART. You mentioned some other wilderness bills. You do not mention the Park Service, but they are also going to come up with one.

Mr. STEWART. Yes. Did you say Mrs. or Mr.?

Senator HECHT. Leslie Stewart. There are three more bills. You just mentioned two. So, we are going to be faced in Nevada with four wilderness proposals. So, it's worse than you thought.

Mr. STEWART. With your bill as the outside amount, and I feel personally we can get along without any wilderness. I am an advocate of true wilderness.

Now, by "true wilderness," I feel there's only one class of people should be allowed in true wilderness, and that's a native American full-blooded Indian, and he should go in wearing moccasins and carrying a bow and arrow.

Kelty backpacks, Ceba stoves and Insulite pads and Sierra Club cups aren't compatible with wilderness. [Applause.]

Senator HECHT. I will point out, at our two previous hearings, we have heard from tribes, different tribes in the State of Nevada, and they have been 100 percent against the wilderness designation. They feel they are going to be affected more than anyone else.

Mr. STEWART. They came from the wilderness originally, and they do not want to be sent back to the wilderness.

Senator HECHT. I have no further questions.

Thank you all very much.

Panel 3: Mike Sheppard, Robert Caldwell, George Shier, Dan Harper, John Buchon, and would panel 4 please walk up and take a seat.

Mike, do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL CLAY SHEPPARD, MICHAEL CLAY CONSTRUCTORS

Mr. SHEPPARD. Good morning, Senator, My name is Mike Sheppard. I wish to present testimony in support of the bills submitted in the Congress of the United States by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and Representative Vucanovich.

I am testifying as a potentially affected individual businessman. I own a construction contracting business and am currently chairman of the Tri-County Development Authority. I am a lifelong resident of the State of Nevada and do business predominantly in the northern part of the State of Nevada with community, commercial, and industrial clients who could be substantially affected by wilderness legislation.

I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich wilderness bill because it is the only fair and evenhanded legislation juxtaposed to the other measures being considered in the Congress of the United States.

The Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill gives cautious and due consideration to the citizens of the United States of America, Nevadans, commerce and industry, national defense, sportsmen, senior citizens, and handicapped.

Item A: National defense. There are substantial reserves of strategic minerals throughout Nevada, as known reserves, some as known reserves but unknown to most because of proprietary geologic information and some undiscovered.

In the next decade, with current international trends, the United States of America will come to a day of reckoning recognizing that purchases of strategic minerals from sources offshore may not provide a reliable source needed for national defense.

Item B: Mining industries. The mining industry is a very important and vital industry in Nevada. And Nevada's mining industry is vital to the United States of America. Precious and strategic metals should not be imported but should be mined in the United States for consumption and export.

The current trends are not mitigating our balance-of-trade problem. Any bill with acreage in excess of Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich could function contrary to our needs. Bills with excess acreage will have a negative impact in the State of Nevada's mining industry, northern Nevada's economy, and my own business.

Item C: My business. My small construction company is dependent upon new mining industry in part and continued economic prosperity which results from the increased mining industry of recent years in northern Nevada. And finally, there would be a modest effect on my business with the potential negative impacts on recreation and tourism.

And finally, item D: Recreation. If excessive areas are closed off as wilderness areas, my family's ability to enjoy the abundant beauty which the Lord has blessed Nevada with will be negatively affected.

To be enjoyed by many, rather than few, the beautiful land of Nevada must be accessible to many including senior citizens, handicapped, and children rather than an elite group with money and energy to hike long distances, backpack, and camp.

Senator HECHT. Mike, you'll have to summarize. Your time's up.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Very quick, and I'm done.

A pristine experience is in the eyes of the beholder and is an individual matter of perception. For me, a pristine experience is to wake up in the morning and see the mountains from my front porch.

A number of years ago, the Blue Lake area was closed from access by vehicles. This was done by heavy lobbying and advocacy from clubs, organizations, and people who, in many cases, had never seen Blue Lake. Blue Lake is now inaccessible to handicapped and senior citizens, and this was an unconscionable taking from people's pristine experience.

Thank you, Senator, for the opportunity to testify.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Mike.

Dan.

STATEMENT OF DAN HARPER, MANAGER, PINSON MINE

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Senator Hecht. My name is Dan Harper. I'm the manager of the Pinson Mine, and I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bills because I think they more accurately reflect the interest of Nevada for Nevadans than do the other bills which more accurately, in my opinion, reflect Nevada for outsiders for Californians.

Designation of vast areas of wilderness precludes further access to all save those on foot or on horseback. It effectively puts a stop to mineral exploration, discovery, and development in these areas.

What will this mean to the people and to the local governments of rural Nevada? The best assessment of this would be to review the economic impact of mining on rural Nevada in the recent past.

Over the 13-year period ending in 1982, minerals, gas, and oil activity accounted for over 50 percent of total employment in three counties, over 25 percent in seven counties, and over 10 percent in two more counties.

One typical year reflected the total purchase of supplies and equipment by the mining industry at $369 million and another $45 million for services.

Mining is an important element in the tax base of most rural counties. Net proceeds of taxes—taxes are collected and retained within the counties. Ninety-eight percent of the State's total was collected by rural counties during the 13-year study period. Property taxes go to local governments. Sales and use taxes are shared by the counties with the State.

In 11 counties, mining contributed between 17 and 85 percent of total assessed property value accounting for similar percentages of the property-tax revenues for the counties. Nearly 95 percent of all assessed value for mining property was in rural counties.

Today, exploration for and development of precious metal deposits are on the increase, not only in this area but all over the northern part of this State. In Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander Counties, we have an Amax Sleeper Mine 36 miles north of Winnemucca starting up in April, the Florida Canyon Mine just east of Imlay starting construction this spring, the 14,000-ton-per-day Rochester Mine east of Lovelock now being developed, a McCoy Mine south of Battle Mountain to start up in April, the Gold Field Chimney Mine 50 miles northeast of Winnemucca under development.

These are all new developments during the last year. They will be reflected in between 500 and 600 new jobs in this area, and they are badly needed in rural Nevada.

This will continue as long as these areas are open to exploration development.

Had any of these mines been in wilderness 20 years ago, they would not be mines today or tomorrow, and we would all be losers.

Thank you, sir.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I mentioned the two geologists who testified yesterday in Elko that said we are just beginning to uncover the mineral potential. Do you agree with them?

Mr. HARPER. You bet. I have some numbers here. You talked about this a little earlier, and in my papers, you'll have these figures.

Senator HECHT. They will all be a matter of record.

Mr. HARPER. They go clear up to a $6 billion estimate from 1985 to 1990, $10 billion estimate for product worth in 1990 to 1995, $12 billion from 1995 to 2000.

Senator HECHT. One of the geologists mentioned that he is looking for gold now with technology he knew nothing about 20 years ago, and it's a whole new field. He feels we have not even begun. I asked him about our dependence on the strategic material minerals; namely, if we lose our position in South Africa and Africa in general. Do you feel we have many strategic minerals in this county?

Mr. HARPER. I think if the market develops to where they are worth—it's just like gold or any other product. If the price goes up to where you can make a buck in developing it, they will be developed.

Yes, I think there is a potential for strategic minerals. There are several minerals that are in plenty in Nevada today, but the price of the commodity doesn't allow them to be produced because of the excessive competition from overseas, tungsten, barite, copper, to name a few.

Senator HECHT. I'm on the Intelligence Committee, and we had an open briefing where we heard about many, many strategic minerals we can only get from South Africa or Africa and the Soviet Union. We had better start developing these in America. How do you feel about that?

Mr. HARPER. Absolutely. If we cut ourselves off—don't just turn a switch and turn the mining industry on again or any other industry. It takes 10 years perhaps to go in to find deposits, develop the deposit and get it to where you are getting the product coming out the door so you can use it in manufacturing.

Right now we are in the throes of cutting off a lot of our expertise. Student enrollment in mining colleges is going down. Eventually, this is going to be reflected in our inability to mine and to engineer the required mines somewhere down the road. It's going to have to be built up if we have emergencies.

I think it's a big mistake if we allow the potential to produce minerals to cease in this country.

Senator HECHT. In your last statement, you said had we had wilderness, none of these mines you mentioned would have been found. Are you looking for a lot more?

Mr. HARPER. Well, the implication there is that 20 years from now, other mines that are yet undiscovered will be preempted from ever existing simply because no one can explore on wilderness areas, and, of course, if you can't explore, and if you have the threat of a wilderness area and these restrictions, it doesn't behoove you to spend any money in exploring it.

So, people are going to stop exploring if they don't have the areas to explore in. And if that stops, then mining is going to stop right behind it.

Senator HECHT. Would you say there's more exploration going on now in Nevada than ever before?

Mr. HARPER. Absolutely. There's a tremendous amount now.

Senator HECHT. Are they major companies?

Mr. HARPER. All over within Nevada and without Nevada, there's a tremendous surge of exploration going on. And the five mines that I mentioned are a reflection of the development of earlier exploration efforts.

Senator HECHT. We heard testimony yesterday about tremendous petroleum reserves. How do you feel about that, in our State?

Mr. HARPER. Absolutely. I can't remember the figure right off the cuff, but I think that our oil production is increased by perhaps 50 percent over the last year or two, and it's continuing being developed.

I might mention geothermal power, which is a mineral in a sense, commodity. It is being developed. We have put, I think, it's two small plants in production in the recent past, and that will continue to be developed. But oil—the development of oil is just beginning in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. No further questions. Thank you very much.

Panel 4, will you please advance to the witness table and panel 5.

Frosty Tipton, Earl Smith, Susan Kern, Buster Dufurrena, Duane Boggio, take a seat up here in front.

OK. Panel No. 4. Sally Kabish.

STATEMENT OF SALLY KABISH, REPRESENTATIVE, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA, SIERRA CLUB

Ms. KABISH. My name is Sally Kabish, and I'm the Sierra Club's northern California/Nevada representative. My office is in Oakland, CA. And I'd first like to clarify the statement that was in the Humboldt Sun. It was certainly not my intent and not the Sierra Club's intent to knock people out of wilderness.

What I was expressing was the scenic beauty of the area, and it's true, you cannot use motorized vehicles to get into these areas, but senior citizens and handicapped people can get in on horseback.

And there are many programs and wilderness areas in other parts of the country where handicapped—they call it adaptive recreation programs. They are very common in these wilderness areas, and perhaps people here in Winnemucca aren't familiar with it because we don't have any wilderness nearby Winnemucca.

So, I would just like to express that and also say that my mother is a senior citizen. She's had two foot operations. She supports wilderness, and she has hiked in the wilderness in many parts of this country, but I will go on with my statement now. I did want to clarify that for the record.

I'm going to cover three points in my testimony: Water rights, grazing, and hunting. I have attended these hearings in rural Nevada and they have been an education for me. I have been to the hearings in Elko and Ely, and I really appreciate the fact, Senator Hecht, that you are holding these hearings and giving not only the Senate committee the opportunity to find out what rural Nevadans think, but someone like me.

And I really do appreciate that. And it has been very informative, and I'm going to stay today and listen to the rest of the testimony today.

In November 1985, the U.S. District Court for Colorado ruling on a suit, *Sierra Club* v. *Block*, held that wilderness designation implies reservation of water rights by the Federal Government. The reservation of water rights is needed to protect the values for which the wilderness was protected.

The court did not insist that the Forest Service had to assert water rights to protect the wilderness. Instead, it ordered the Forest Service to drop a plan to protect wilderness water in Colorado. The plan may or may not include the assertion of water rights.

Any water right for wilderness would be a nonconsumptive right. That means in the case of Nevada's mountain wilderness we are discussing today, the water will flow off the mountaintop and be available for downstream users.

There may currently be private water rights inside of the proposed wilderness areas. Since a Federal-reserved water right would only be valid as of the date of the Federal reservation, the designation of wilderness, if it were to occur in 1986, would be a very junior water right if any.

A wilderness water right would be bound by applicable State law. Water rights will be adjudicated in State court.

Grazing will continue in wilderness. This principle was set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and further clarified by the Colorado Wilderness Act. The House report states:

> There shall be no curtailments of grazing in wilderness areas, nor should wilderness designation be used as an excuse by administrators to slowly phase out grazing.
>
> The maintenance of supporting facilities existing in an area prior to its classification as wilderness is permissible in wilderness where practical alternatives do not exist. Maintenance or other activities may be accomplished through the occasional use of motorized equipment.
>
> The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes such as rescuing sick animals or the placement of feed in emergency situations is also permissible.

I see my time is up. I'd like to introduce into the record a letter from the Forest Service about grazing in wilderness and the fact that it should continue in the wilderness areas.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. If you want to summarize one last paragraph, you may.

Ms. KABISH. OK. The Sierra Club supports hunting. One of my best outdoor experiences was on a carabao hunt in Alaska where I used to live. And that experience will stay with me forever.

And it is not our intention to stop hunting in wilderness areas, and there has been testimony at some of the other hearings, and there's been information in the paper that the Sierra Club does not want hunting in wilderness.

I'd just like to set the record straight on that.

[The letter follows:]

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Reply to:

Date: Dec. 9, 1985

Mr. Von Sorenson
Clover Valley
Wells, NV 89835

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

During the recent Nevada Cattleman's and Wool Grower's Association joint convention, concern was expressed over the large number of sheep permittees that were forced out of business because of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness designation in Idaho. We think it is proper to provide the following information.

During the past several years the number of sheep that graze on National Forest allotments in Idaho has continued to decline. At present, there are about 30 allotments that are either vacant or not grazed because of nonuse for the personal convenience of the permittee. Other than a conversion of one band of sheep to cattle, our records show no change in sheep grazing in the area designated as the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Factors other than wilderness designation--overall ranch economics and labor--are recognized as being primarily responsible for the decline in sheep use on National Forest System lands in Idaho.

Section 4 of the Wilderness Act of 1964 provides that the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of the Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture. Futher, the Congressional Conference Report to S. 2009 (H.R. No. 96-1126) provides additional guidelines pertaining to livestock grazing in wilderness. Among other things, the Conference Report guidelines specify that livestock grazing is not to be closed out as a result of an area being designated as wilderness. Those guidelines were adopted as Forest Service policy to which we adhere. A copy of the policy as stated in the Forest Service Manual is enclosed for information. Provisions relating to continued livestock grazing are contained in legislation subsequent to 1964 which established additional wilderness areas.

In summary, we have no information to support statements that cattle or sheep operators were forced out of business as a result of wilderness designation. We are unable to discern changes in permitted livestock grazing that are attributable to wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

cc: w/o enc.
DNF-R
Humboldt NF
Toiyabe NF

RANDALL B. HALL
Director
Range and Watershed Management

Senator HECHT. We do want to hear from both sides, and I want to point out that my office had nothing to do with the scheduling. The only thing we did was ask elected officials to be first. So, the purpose of these hearings is to hear both sides of the issue.

Ms. KABISH. I appreciate that.

Senator HECHT. Let's go on.

Greg Ebner.

STATEMENT OF GREGORY PAUL EBNER, ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Mr. EBNER. Senator Hecht, let me introduce myself. I'm Gregory Paul Ebner, a native of Sparks, NV. I'm an electrical engineer volunteering my time toward this issue.

Today I am speaking on behalf of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, a nonpartisan coalition of individuals and organizations working toward a good wilderness bill for Nevada. Through our various organizations, we represent 10,000 Nevadans.

Let me speak briefly on a few facts which will help disspell many falsehoods surrounding wilderness, particularly the impact upon mining and mining claims.

Distribution of mining claims is an important firsthand tool used in determining the relative minerals potential of a particular region.

This is one of the methods employed by the Forest Service in making their planning decisions. Certainly, the presence or absence of valid mining claims gives an immediate indication of both the interest of the minerals industry in a particular region and the abundance of exploitable minerals.

There are presently 348,000 claims in Nevada each comprising 20.66 acres. Thus, of the 53 million acres open to minerals entry, 13.3 is claimed; therefore, an average claim density of 13.3 percent can be assumed for the State.

Since the claims are not evenly distributed, it is obvious that certain regions be much more heavily claimed—indicating high potential—while others will have few claims or be void of any at all.

Beginning in May 1985, I embarked upon the task of mapping to within one-quarter section all of the valid claims contained within the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal of 21 areas.

Let me briefly summarize the result. There were five areas with zero valid claims. The average claim density for the total Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal is 1.7 percent or one-eighth the State average of 13.3 percent.

There are less than 1,200 valid claims in the Friends for Nevada Wilderness proposal. This is less than 0.4 percent of the State's total claims.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that just recently, a new mine opened here. They staked 1,800 claims for that single mine.

The results of this study pointed out two important features of the areas proposed for wilderness; that they are of low mineral potential, and that great care has been taken to exclude all major claim-blocks from the wilderness boundaries.

Clearly, it is impossible to have a wilderness bill which does not include some valid claims within the areas. If H.R. 3302, plus Pearl

Peak, Sweetwater, Excelsiors, Elk Mountain, Grant Range, and Toiyabe Crest were enacted tomorrow, 99.6 percent of Nevada claims would be unaffected, and not one mine would close. And all the remaining claims could still be worked subject to the restrictions of the Wilderness Act.

Furthermore, the Wilderness Act mandates wilderness surveys of wilderness area. Based upon the results of the foregoing studies, mineral conflicts are minimal and should not constrain this subcommittee from consideration of all 21 areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness for inclusion in the national wilderness system.

Another myth is the belief that only a handful of elitest backpackers use wilderness. This is simply not true as the facts bear out.

In the Toiyabe National Forest, the Bishop District Manager recorded 41,000 recreational visitor days in 1985 for wilderness use alone. Furthermore, 160,000 recreational visitor days are attributed to hiking throughout the Toiyabe National Forest in 1985.

It is obvious that hiking is a popular activity enjoyed by large numbers within the population.

Many will say that the acreage proposed for wilderness in Nevada is excessive. It should be pointed out that Nevada is a vast State, and for comparison, there is a single, grazing allotment of 850,000 acres, nearly the size of the lands proposed in H.R. 3302, and there are numerous allotments in excess of 100,000 acres.

The greatest threat in Nevada to wild heritage is its lack of protection. In the 100 years of white settlement, over 95 percent of the wild lands have been lost.

To assume that the remaining pristine lands will continue undisturbed is absurd. Those who truly care for Nevada's heritage must act to preserve what little is left.

Thank you for your consideration of my argument.

Senator HECHT. That's fine.

STATEMENT OF DON TRYON

Mr. TRYON. Good morning Senator Hecht and committee staff members. My name is Don Tryon. I live in central Oregon. I am here as a private citizen. I came here to say that Oregonians care about Nevada and about the future of Nevada's wild land.

Last summer when the Oregonian's feature sportswriter, Terry Richard, came here to amble in the Great Basin Mountains, our Cascades were still snowed in. Arc Dome was highlighted in its series and brought to the attention of thousands of your northern neighbors.

Forging a wilderness bill out of years of study was a difficult process in Oregon too, and we added nearly 1 million acres to our existing 1-plus-million acres. After the rhetoric died down, some new wilderness areas became featured attractions in Chamber of Commerce brochures.

Bend, my community, is a former lumbermill town, but technology is eroding the labor base of resource exploitation industries. Today, only 17 percent of the area's labor force works in the timber industry.

By contrast, in 1983, just over 3 million tourists visited central Oregon and left behind an estimated $374 million during their stay.

We had a patented mining claim in the Three Sisters Wilderness. When development of claims was pending, their Oregon Senate colleagues paved the way for purchase.

Now, we export memories, beauty, and celluloid images indefinitely rather than a finite amount of mineral commodities.

A disturbing and persistant myth has it that Nevada is a wasteland. One goes to Reno, Tahoe, or Las Vegas, and if possible, flies over the rest of the State.

Such a place, it is alleged, is not worthy of national parks or wilderness. Why preserve a wasteland after all? They are wrong.

The mountain ranges of our Great Basin are national treasures.

And a couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to spend a few days in the Santa Rosa Mountains. I hiked out along the ridge north of Buckskin's Great Wild Mountains and along the ridges out of Hinkey Summit. I saw 17 golden eagles, several deer, and what looked like a mountain lion track.

The views were stunning. I netted a few Lahontan cutthroats for observation. Fisheries are fascinating and sensitive of the landlock island biogeographic nature of the Great Basin Ranges. Only in a place of superlatives could the Santa Rosa Mountains be taken for granted.

As I progress into middle age, spend my work hours in countless meetings, on the roads and over a computer screen, the wild lands of the West become more precious to me. I ask you to preserve the priceless jewels that we are fortunate to still have wild in your young America.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I've heard from many, many Nevadans on this issue, probably many, many thousands of them after we took this helicopter trip around the State with Congressman Seiberling, and there was a tremendous amount of resentment here in Nevada that he would come and dictate what he thought should be in Nevada.

For the record, I want to quote Congressman Seiberling. I'll read this so that it will be 100 percent accurate.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has 77 acres of wilderness in the State of Ohio established in 1975 inside the West Center National Wildlife Refuge.

Congressman Seiberling wants to create 18,000 times this amount in Nevada. Do you think this is right?

Ms. KABISH. Obviously we support the House bill, which is, you know, whatever your figure was, I'm not sure.

Senator HECHT. Let me just point that out for the record and the people of the audience. The Hecht-Laxalt and Vucanovich bill is 137,000 acres. The U.S. Forest Service proposal is about 400,000 acres. The Reid bill as introduced, about 700,000 acres. The Reid bill as amended and reported, about 1,100,000 acres, and Congressman Seiberling's bill, 1,400,000 acres.

Ms. KABISH. OK. Thank you. Nevada has 70-plus-million acres and 1 million acres is just about 1.3 percent of the State. So, no, we don't think that's excessive. Obviously, there are people who do.

I have heard Congressman Seiberling talk about the wilderness in his State, and he has said that he wished that they's had the foresight a long time ago in Ohio to set aside more wild land so there would be more wilderness, and we think this is an opportunity for Nevada, as it has been for Arizona, Utah, California, and many other Western States.

Senator HECHT. Would any of you like to comment on that?

Mr. TRYON. I would. As one from Oregon and having been involved in the RARE II issue there and other wilderness concerns, unless I'm mistaken, weren't there over 100 roadless areas identified in the State of Nevada?

And a couple of years ago, I came through Reno and picked up a brochure, and there were 18 areas identified in this brochure that conservationists wanted included into a wilderness bill in this State, and I was a little bit stunned by that.

In the other States that I have traveled in, and certainly in Oregon, conservationists would consider that overwhelmingly conservative. Most of the other Western States have considerably more wilderness.

Most of the conservationists have asked for more wilderness, and quite frankly, many of the other Western States, even though they may have more highly-advertised resources and they may draw more tourists to those resources—you have truly superlative resources here, wilderness resources, national resources—have included it into that concept of wilderness resources.

So, it seems to me as though Senator Seiberling is representing a broader perspective.

Senator HECHT. Well, in Nevada, we're very, very proud of the fact that we're contributing to the defense of our country. We have Fallon Naval Air Station. We have Nellis Air Force Base, and we have the Nevada Test Site.

So, there has been a tremendous amount of land designated to the Federal Government.

How do you feel about this? I mean, do you think in additional we should give a lot more?

Mr. TRYON. I think that the fundamental point here is that these are already Federal lands to begin with. There will be not transfer of land within a wilderness area.

There is no condemnation power given with respect to any private land within a wilderness area, and there's very little private land within any of the proposed Nevada wilderness land. There simply will be no transfer of title of land.

Senator HECHT. That really wouldn't fall into what I'm bringing up though. What I'm bringing up is that we have given so much land for the defense of our country.

Mr. TRYON. To the Nation as a whole?

Senator HECHT. Yes.

Ms. KABISH. That is an important contribution that the State of Nevada has made, and we think that those lands—you know, they are not available to the public. You wouldn't want to go in there even if you could, and wilderness will be available to everyone, and I think it's a fine contribution, and Nevada woud be proud to make that contribution.

Senator HECHT. What about the multiple-use concept the other panelists have spoken about? You say you were at the other hearings in Ely and Elko. Most people have testified that they feel the lands are being well cared for. On the tour, we met one rancher who had had that ranch in his family for 100 years, and he said nothing has changed in the last 100 years.

Mr. EBNER. Well, being a native Sparks Nevadan, I can shed a little light on that.

The house that I was born in was at the end of the block was nothing but a hay field and cattle all the way out and clear blue skies every single night. We never had any smog, and I'm sure everybody in this chamber has been in Reno before, and they probably wouldn't want to live in Reno because it's deteriorated.

The quality of life is simply not what it was when I was a young boy growing up. And I have seen the mountains around my hometown be simply overrun, my favorite fishing holes and places. I just don't go there any more because I don't want to sit on a beach with 300 other people.

That's happened within a very short period of time. I'm a young man, and change happens very, very rapidly. It may not change for 100 years, but it may change overnight.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Tryon, did you want to say something?

Mr. TRYON. Yes, with regard to the concept of multiple use, and I think we all recognize that as a legitimate use of the national forest lands.

I think Congress has certified that the Wilderness Act is a component of that multiple-use system and that no one expects the national forest lands to have multiple-use concept applied to each individual acre.

An open-pit mine is not mulitiple use on the individual acres that is being mined, but we accept open-pit mining as a component of multiple-use program. And the same is true of wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Tony just informed me that our stenographer needs a break. So, we're going to call a 5-minute recess and be right back in 5 minutes.

[A recess was taken.]

Senator HECHT. Frosty Tipton, do you want to start?

STATEMENT OF FROSTY TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. My name is Frosty Tipton. Thank you for holding hearings on Senate bill S. 722 in Nevada where its impact will be felt.

I'm a private citizen and area rancher. Our family ranch will not be directly affected by any wilderness area in this or any other bill, as we are located in the "checkerboard" area along the Humboldt River.

We will be affected by increased traffic of the people locked out of these new wilderness areas. This increased traffic will affect our cattle, private property, and the areas of natural resources.

This area is very short of water. Increased use of nonwilderness areas will create numerous conflicts. The most common will be the lack of water, an example being livestock unintentionally excluded

from water at springs or other water developments by recreating people.

Livestock and wildlife will have to find other sources of water or perish. Many cattle will drift home to the main ranch. Some will compete with wildlife at other watering sources; neither will flourish. If a ranch's cattle cannot be properly distributed, the range will soon suffer. Inevitably, a ranch will have to reduce its carrying capacity.

A 1979 economic study conducted by Gordon Meyer of the University of Nevada, Reno, found that area ranches spend nearly 300 per head per year and probably more today.

Reducing numbers will severely impact a small community. As I understand it, agricultural dollars turn over seven times.

Keep in mind, this will only address the natural forest lands. We have yet to address BLM wilderness areas or national wildlife refuges.

If a majority of the Nevada Alpine areas are designated wilderness, it will leave only the desert scrub areas for Nevada's working people.

Hunting, fishing, camping values for these people will be greatly reduced. Someone working 5 days a week or more canot possibly drive to the edge of the wilderness, hike into it, and then have time to do anything but hike back out to be at work or school Monday morning.

Also remember Department of Defense land withdrawals which usually lock everyone out, and Indian reservation which have limited access. It would be easy to limit Nevadans to just a small portion of the State that is already limited by lack of water and extremely small privateland base.

Critics will attempt to cast me as someone with a vested interest, but I'm a native Nevadan and a conservationist. I serve on the local CRNP Committee, Sonoma Soil Conservation District Board, and as zone councilman for the Society of Range Management. My wife and I are also members of the Wilderness Society and the National Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club.

The Wilderness Society even sent a letter asking my wife to testify here today, without asking her opinion on S. 722. I am sure lobbyists for these organizations have told you of their members' unanimous support for large amounts of wilderness. I guarantee you, it is not unanimous.

Thank you very much for holding these hearings in Nevada. Please continue to express to your colleagues the importance of a traditional wilderness policy.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Susan Kern.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN KERN, PRESIDENT-ELECT, NEVADA STATE COWBELLES

Ms. KERN. Good morning, Senator Hecht and members of the committee. My name is Susan Kern. I'm president elect of the Nevada State Cowbelles and a livelong resident of the Paradise Valley which lies at the foot of the Santa Rosa Range.

I am testifying in support of the Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt wilderness bill. The excessive wilderness proposals of Congressmen Reid and Seiberling would have adverse effects on the economy of Humboldt County plus a devasting effect on agriculture.

The people of Paradise Valley, whether ranchers or not, derive their income status from the existence of the range, whether through cattle sportsmen, snowmobilers, or fishermen. Senior citizens who pass their time fishing cannot walk into these areas. Hunters from other States and other parts of Nevada will go elsewhere so they can drive to their campsites thus bypassing Winnemucca.

Having been born and raised on a ranch, my main concern is the great impact on us as ranchers. Instead of progress, we will have to turn back our pages to the past way of running our operations if the Reid-Seiberling bill is passed.

By this, I mean packing salt into areas for cattle and wildlife, maintaining fences and water development by horseback rather than being able to truck the first several miles, saving our animals as well as costly time.

Nowhere in our 210 years this great country of ours has existed have we gone backward in time. Our country was developed with our forefathers' push to survive and progress into the future.

Your bill allows reasonable access with motorized vehicles to keep up our present improvements on our water facilities, fences, salt placement, recreation, and hunting.

Your bill protects our State's water rights. Many crops are raised annually with only the use of mountain waters, plus livestock and wildlife in the valleys are watered by these streams.

Many of the areas in the Reid-Seiberling bill have roads—have had roads many a year. Even if the wording has been changed to "ways," they are still roads.

In closing, we aren't totally against wilderness—just a reasonable amount, and the terms that we can live with. Senator Hecht and committee members, I thank you for giving us a chance to be heard on this important issue.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Duane Boggio.

STATEMENT OF DUANE BOGGIO, PARADISE VALLEY, NV

Mr. BOGGIO. My name is Duane Boggio. I'm a rancher from Paradise Valley, NV. The reasons why I believe the Santa Rosa Mountains should not be made a wilderness area are:

There is a B–52 letdown pattern over them with up to 40 flights a week. At night, you can see lights from anywhere on the mountain. Jet fighters fly over the mountains on a regular basis. There are roads up every canyon in the Santa Rosas. Almost everywhere you look, there is evidence of man.

There are many Indian writings throughout the Santa Rose Mountains. Some are right by the roads. If this was to become wilderness, the handicapped, the elderly, and the youth could not view and take pictures of them. Only the backpackers and the horseback riders could enjoy them.

The Santa Rosas are steep in spots. As a range conservationist, I am concerned about potential erosion by not controllling fires and not being able to rehabilitate after a fire.

The Santa Rosas are designated lands. They were designated as U.S. Forest Reserve lands in 1918. The U.S. Forest Service has done much research to see if the Santa Rosas should be considered for wilderness study. They felt that the Santa Rosas did not show enough wilderness character to proceed any further.

I do support some wilderness but only what shows wilderness character and not by putting a criteria of government quota of acreage into special-interest wilderness.

I believe wilderness is special interest because wilderness discriminates against hunting, fishing, mining, bird-watching, viewing of flowers and Indian writings, picture-taking, picnicking, snowmobiling, skiing, grazing, the handicapped, the elderly, and the youth.

I feel sure that the elderly, the handicapped, and the youth would rather drive up into the mountains and do whatever they have been accustomed to doing instead of just driving to the edge of them and just looking.

The fact of the matter is the wilderness is strictly special use, and nonwilderness is for everybody including the backpackers. Not only does it seem very unfair, it seems un-American that so many have to sacrifice to benefit so few.

The public lands should be for all the public and not just the wilderness people. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I have no questions. I appreciate your coming. We are falling a little behind, so we are going to continue right on.

Panel 6. Nancy Wotruba, Thomas Irwin, Don Smith, Win Rowe, William Feyerabend, Odin Christensen, and Stan Snodgrass.

While we're waiting, would panel 7 please take their seats up in front. Let's start right in.

Nancy, how do you pronounce the last name?

Ms. WOTRUBA. Wotruba.

Senator HECHT. OK. You're first.

STATEMENT OF NANCY J. WOTRUBA, ON BEHALF OF WOMEN IN MINING

Ms. WOTRUBA. Women in mining is an organization whose purpose is to support the mining industry through public education concerning all aspects of mining. We support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich wilderness bill as a compromise.

We are opposed to the excessive amounts of wilderness that are proposed by Congressmen Reid and Seiberling. This wilderness withdrawal is only one of the many past, present, and future withdrawals which prohibit mineral entry.

There are several key reasons why excessive wilderness acreages should not be withdrawn from mineral entry as follows: First, Nevada gained enough population to become a State due to mining. The mining industry is the backbone of the economy of most of the counties in Nevada.

The mining industry is the base and backbone of every other industry that exists.

Most persons take this for granted. They don't even stop to consider where the metal comes from in the car they drive or that gas comes from somewhere other than the corner station.

Sure. Paper comes from trees and cotton from a field, but the machinery used to process these products is made of metal.

What about the tungsten filaments in lightbulbs? What about the copper required to bring us electricity? What about the concrete we drive on and build with? Are we willing to do without them? We think not.

Even the cavemen used flint for tools.

Second, it is not in the interests of national security to be dependent upon foreign mineral imports. What happens when a foreign shipping line is broken due to war or political unrest? We can't just do without these minerals.

According to the Nevada Department of Minerals, every individual in this country uses 40,000 pounds of minerals every year. This usage gives us the highest standard of living in the world. Yet, our country is willing to depend upon foreign nations for a large amount of our mineral needs.

Third, look at the Federal deficit. Why should we lock away land and spend money to patrol and manage these lands when our country can't afford to do so? Multiple-use land produces income through taxes on businesses such as mining, logging, and ranching, in addition to income taxes paid by the employees of these businesses.

The United States and the State of Nevada require the revenues produced by these taxes.

In closing, a wilderness land withdrawal locks up land against future mining and exploration. We don't know what minerals would be locked out, and we don't know what our future mineral needs will be.

We're not willing to take this risk. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Wotruba for Women in Mining.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Thomas Irwin.

STATEMENT OF TOM IRWIN, GEOLOGIST AND SUPERVISOR, EXXON MINERALS CO., RENO, NV

Mr. IRWIN. I am Tom Irwin, geologist and supervisor with Exxon Minerals Co. based in Reno, NV, where I've lived for the past 7 years. I wish to thank this committee for being here in Winnemucca to hold these field hearings on the important Nevada wilderness issue.

We fully recognize the worst of this country's wilderness system. We also recognize the vital importance of mining industry not only to the State of Nevada but also to the entire Nation.

The area included within the State of Nevada has been an important source of minerals since the mid-1800's. Many companies are actively exploring to find new mineral deposits. We believe other major deposits will be found and developed if exploration is allowed to proceed in a manner that recognizes the need to combine commericality with a respect for the environment.

Exxon has been active in the search for nonhydrocarbon minerals in Nevada since 1966. At this time we are conducting several active exploration programs and one detailed evaluation program on mineral-bearing properties within the State.

Like many other companies, we are focusing our attention on the search for base and precious metals.

We take the position that a policy of multiple use provides by far the greatest good for the largest majority of citizens.

Nevada is fortunate in that it is unusually rich in minerals. Yet, in spite of the large size of the State, I would like to bring to this committee's attention that there are already significant portions of Nevada's lands unavailable or unsuited for mineral exploration.

Please note this map on the wall behind me. The areas in blue on the under part of the map are areas with deep gravel cover or barren volcanic cover where load mining is unfeasible due to the great depth of the mineral-bearing formations. This eliminates nearly 55 percent of the State.

On the overlay in brown are shown areas now withdrawn from multiple use due to military, Indian reservations, and other government withdrawals.

This eliminates an additional 13 million acres. Reductions being considered by this committee and the Congress will reduce it even further.

The Seiberling-Reid bill shown in orange alone would remove nearly 10 percent of the remaining prospective ground from mineral entry. This overlay shows the proposed wilderness areas in the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill in yellow, the Seiberling and Seiberling-Reid bills in orange, as well as the wilderness study areas of the Bureau of Land Management in blue.

As you can see, the totality of these excessive wilderness proposals, if enacted into law, would cause serious harm to a vital Nevada minerals industry.

We support the more moderate and more balanced approach for Nevada's wilderness system as proposed in the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich proposals.

We have prepared and will leave with you our written submission covering 18 of the U.S. Forest Service proposed wilderness areas and have commented on their mineral potential.

I hope that you will find our comments on these 18 areas of value and will give them full consideration.

I would like to close by thanking you, Senator Hecht, and the committee for the opportunity to be here on this important subject for the mining community in Nevada.

[Attachments follow:]

Priority listing of Wilderness Areas

1. Grant Range
2. Quinn
3. Schell Creek Range
   (seven areas)
4. Toiyabe Crest
5. Arc Dome
6. Excelsior
7. Santa Rosa
8. Currant Mountain
   (Duckwater)
9. Mount Jefferson
   (Alta Toquima)
10. Table Mountain
11. South Snake
    (Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge)
12 Jarbidge Additions
13 East Humboldt
14 Mount Moriah
15. Ruby Mountains
16. Boundary Peak
17. Mount Rose
18 Mount Charleston

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EXCELSIOR

The Excelsior roadless area has high mineral potential and is of high interest to Exxon Minerals Company. The Whiskey Flat, Marrietta and Buena Vista mining districts are located partially within the study area. Potential exists for the discovery of lead, zinc, silver, gold, copper and tungsten. High grade copper (.40% to 3%), lead (14.00%), silver (20 oz/t) and gold (1 oz/t) occurrences have been investigated by Exxon Minerals Company in and near the roadless area. Three active mining claim groups exist within the roadless area.

Thomas D. Irwin

TDI/pac
1020E

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BOUNDARY PEAK

The Boundary Peak roadless area has low mineral potential and low interest to Exxon Minerals Company.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020G

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MT. CHARLESTON

The Mt. Charleston roadless area has low mineral potential and holds no interest to Exxon Minerals Company.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020H

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MOUNT JEFFERSON - ALTA TOQUIMA

The Mount Jefferson - Alta Toquima roadless area has high mineral potential. One claim block occurs within the roadless boundary and the Round Mountain gold-silver deposit (one of the largest in North America) and five miles to the southwest. Exxon Minerals Company has investigated three prospective areas in, or within, three miles of the roadless boundary. Mercury, gold, silver, antimony, molybdenum, titanium and uranium deposits occur within, or very near, the proposed wilderness area.

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1020A

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TABLE MOUNTAIN

The Table Mountain roadless area has high mineral potential. Ten active claim groups exist within the roadless boundary. There are seven mines and many areas with mineralization exposed in prospect pits and shallow workings. The Toiyabe Forest Plan regards the potential for mineral development in the area as fair to good. The U.S. Bureau of Mines reports that Table Mountain is:

> "...a significant area for antimony and silver with possible lead, gold, cadmium, selenium and barium."

Several major exploration efforts are currently underway in and near the eastern half of the area.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020L

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GRANT RANGE

The potential for the discovery of additional deposits of gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, molybdenum, fluorspar, tungsten and tin in the Grant Range proposed wilderness area is high. Three areas within the boundary are currently being prospected. Tungsten, lead, gold and silver have been produced from in or near the proposed wilderness boundary.

Exxon Minerals Company has recently conducted reconnaissance programs in the area and more work in the area is anticipated.

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1020M

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QUINN CANYON

The Quinn Canyon area has very high potential for precious and base metals as well as fluorspar. Gold, silver and lead have been produced from the Willow Creek district and fluorspar has been produced from the Quinn Canyon district. These districts lie on the northwestern and southeastern boundaries respectively of the roadless area. The Quinn area contains the State's largest known fluorspar deposits. Recent exploration on more than 1,000 claims has been for gold, silver, lead and zinc in vein and replacement deposits, fluorite in breccia pipes and stockworks, possible Carlin-type gold deposits and porphry molybdenum deposits.

Eight separate blocks of mining claims exist within the boundaries of the wilderness proposal. Exxon Minerals Company has recently completed reconnaissance programs in the area and additional exploration in the area is anticipated. A large portion of the area is underlain by lower Paleozoic rocks which are the most favorable hosts for both Pb, Zn and gold-silver deposits.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020W

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CURRANT MOUNTAIN

The Currant Mountain area has high mineral potential. Six major mining claim blocks exist within the boundary. Potential for gold, silver, lead, zinc, molylodenum, copper, fluorine, and tungsten is high. The carbonate rocks in the area are similar to those hosting the major Pb-Zn-Ag-Au deposits in the White Pine - Hamilton district 12 miles to the north and the Ely-Ruth copper deposits 35 miles to the northeast. The old Currant mining district, which produced gold and silver in the early 1900's, is located immediately south of the proposed wilderness boundary.

Exxon Minerals Company has investigated one potential deposit within the study area and several nearby, but outside, the boundaries.

Thomas D. Irwin

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SOUTH SNAKE

(Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge)

The South Snake (Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge) roadless area has high mineral potential. The Forest Service states that:

> "...there is potential for increased mining activity due to past mining of gold, tungsten, antimony, lead, silver..."

Eleven mining districts exist within the original roadless boundaries and at least nine active claim groups are in this area. A much larger, but as yet undetermined, number of claims occur within the boundaries of the proposed national park.

Exxon Minerals Company currently has no active exploration programs in the South Snake area. Placer gold deposits on the western and northwestern edges of the area indicate potential lode deposits "upstream" within the proposed park and wilderness. Exxon Minerals Company has investigated these placers.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020K

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MOUNT MORIAH

The mineral potential of the Mount Moriah area is moderate. Five active mining claim groups exist within the proposed wilderness. Potential for copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold exist in the area. Known deposits of copper and silver exist on the east slope of Mt. Moriah and in Trail Canyon; lead-silver deposits occur around Silver Peak and the Hanna Mines. Silver, zinc and gold deposits exist in the Black Horse District in the southwestern part of the area.

Exxon Minerals Company has no active exploration efforts in the area.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020J

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SCHELL CREEK RANGE

The Schell Creek range has a high probability of containing economic mineral deposits. There are eleven active mineral claim groups within the area and four mining districts with significant past production totally or partially within the proposed wilderness boundary.

The mining districts with recorded production of lead, zinc, silver, manganese, copper and gold include Cleve Creek, Duck Creek, Nevada and Peirmont districts.

Exxon Minerals Company has investigated all of these districts in the past as well as other parts of this roadless area. The entire Schell Creek Range holds a great deal of interest to Exxon Minerals Company.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020Q

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RUBY MOUNTAINS

The mineral potential of the Ruby Mountains roadless area is generally low with the exception of the Battle Creek and Hargrove Mine areas near the center of the area. Exxon Minerals Company has no currently active projects in the area. Two active claim blocks exist within the proposed wilderness boundary.

Thomas D. Irwin

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1020C

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JARBIDGE ADDITIONS

The potential for discovery of additional gold, silver, barite, molybdenum, copper, tungsten and barite is very high within the Jarbidge Additions roadless area. One known high quality barite deposit occurs in the Camp Creek area. Two large blocks of claims exist in the Jarbidge River - Fox Creek areas and the Normon Mines are located near the headwaters of the Jarbidge River within the proposed wilderness boundary.

Exxon Minerals Company has no active exploration projects in the area.

Thomas D. Irwin

TDI/pac
1020I

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EAST HUMBOLDT

Significant tungsten-molybdenum potential exists in the southern 3/4 of the East Humboldt roadless area. Several tungsten prospects exist along the eastern edge of the area in rocks and environments that continue through the major portion of the roadless area.

Lead, zinc, silver potential is high in the northern-most portion of the area. The old Shanacie Pb-Zn-Ag prospect of Exxon Minerals Company lies seven miles south of the proposed wilderness boundary and similar rocks are exposed within the northern part of the area. Values in excess of 20% combined lead + zinc were discovered during Exxon Minerals Company's exploration efforts in the Shanacie area.

Thomas D. Irwin

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10200

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SANTA ROSA

The Santa Rosa roadless area has moderate to high potential for economic mineral deposits. Twelve active mining claim groups exist within the roadless area boundaries and the Rebel Creek, Shon and Buckskin National districts are adjacent to the boundaries. Principal minerals in the area are gold and uranium, but moderate potential for molybdenum exists within the roadless boundaries.

Thomas D. Irwin

TDI/pac
1020R

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TOIYABE CREST

The Toiyabe Crest area has very high mineral potential with high interest to Exxon Minerals Company. Approximately 30% of the area is covered by mining claims. Six mining districts occur within or immediately adjacent to the area and at least 50 mines lie within or immediately adjacent to the roadless area. Mines or deposits of silver, gold, lead, zinc, copper, tungsten, antimony and barite exist within the area or immediately adjacent rocks. A new gold discovery near the northern boundary of the area was discovered in 1978-84.

The U. S. Forest Service roadless area evaluation contends that "future mineral exploration and extraction is anticipated" because of "widespread" mineralization.

Thomas D. Irwin

TDI/pac
1020P.

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MOUNT ROSE

The Mount Rose area has low mineral potential and Exxon Minerals Company has no current plans to explore in this area. No exisiting claims lie within the roadless area.

Thomas D. Irwin

TDI/pac
1020F

A DIVISION OF EXXON CORPORATION

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Everything will be included in the testimony except the maps. They cannot be included, but I thank you very much.

Don Smith.

STATEMENT OF DON SMITH, ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS FOR MINING

Mr. SMITH. I want to thank you for the opportunity to come and speak on this important issue.

My name is Don Smith of Battle Mountain, NV, and I represent the Citizens for Mining, a group of small miners.

I am a 25-year resident of Nevada. As a group, we do not oppose the Vucanovich-Laxalt and Hecht bill of 137,000 acres, but we don't want any more than we now have.

We are not against wilderness if it meets all the requirements that are in the Wilderness Act. But we are against wilderness areas that have been created by the government regulatory and environmentalists to suit their own proposes. These purposes are not suited for multiple use regardless of what anyone says.

It has already been proven in a wilderness area in Colorado that you can't mine in a wilderness area. In the mid-1970's the Forest Service created a huge wilderness around some patented mining claims owned by a large mining company.

At the 12,000-foot elevation, there was an old road going up the canyon that the old miners had made and used in their operations.

I walked up this road to see if it could be cleaned off and used to get a drill up to the claims to do development work.

A few rocks as large as a washtub and quite a few pine trees as tall as your head were on the road but could have been removed very easily. But the Forest Service says no way can you do that.

So, the company hired two pack-animal trains to haul a drill up to the mining claims to do the work, and they hauled the drill cuttings back out with donkeys. The Forest Service got complaints from hikers that said the animals left manure on the trail. So, no more of that business.

So, that shoots down the theory that the old folks are going to ride horses in the wilderness area. Already been proven.

The next summer, the company hired helicopters to haul in drills and people and supplies and used the helicopters for everything. This time the complaints were filed by the hikers that the noise of the helicopters' wop, wop, wop disturbed their thoughts. So, no more of that business.

The company spent $1.2 million on an EIS for that project out of their own pockets to satisfy the regulators and still did not accomplish anything, only to abandon the whole project.

I worked for that company here in Nevada for 17 years, and I might add that they are in dire financial need as of today, a direct result of that project and one other in Colorado wilderness system of the U.S. Forest Service.

America's domestic economic decline, its loss of foreign policy, its collapsing military capabilities, its mining industry, its steel and auto industry, and the rash of bankruptcies of the once proud agricultural sector, are all fruits of the environmentalist program.

It seems that they can recruit some of the most wealthy sponsors in the entire Nation, or could it be the other way around; that the youngsters were recruited by the sponsors? Thanks to the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, Mr. Seiberling from Ohio, the whole State of Nevada may become one huge wilderness if they have their way.

And we resent the fact that Congressman Seiberling dictates to us how much wilderness that we have for Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Win Rowe.

STATEMENT OF WINTHROP A. ROWE, SENIOR SUPERVISORY GEOLOGIST, FREEPORT-McMORAN GOLD CO., RENO, NV

Mr. ROWE. Thank you. I am Winthrop Rowe. I am a senior supervisory geologist for Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co.

I would make one bottom-line plea: Let's get back to basics in this country. You know, the United States was founded on the profitability of natural resources; in other words, America grew up living off the land.

Unfortunately, and ironically, these are the industries right now that are in the highest peril.

Mr. Reid's proposal and Seiberling's proposal talking about 1 percent of the land as talked about by Tom Irwin earlier—this is really misleading because we are talking somewhere between 4 and 10 percent. The numbers vary because we have not done them like Exxon has done.

But of the actual favorable grounds for multiple use in the mountainous areas with the wilderness areas proposed, we are talking about a major effect of the withdrawal. If we add BLM wilderness study areas to that, we may be talking 15, 20 percent to be withdrawn.

Also, I would like to concur that Nevada has emerged as a true gold province. In the last 5 years, new published reserves are in the vicinity of 35 million ounces, $12 billion gross value, and it's because of new technology.

And if we were to use Mr. Ebner's thesis a little earlier that going by the claims that the claims existing in an area are evidence of lack of mineral interests, we would have wilderness in the central Independence Mountains; for example, go back 20 years. There's just a couple claims in that area, and now, Jarac Canyon is producing and has published reserves of close to $2 billion in gross value. Three hundred seventy jobs, plus, for Nevada.

With the advancing technology that has happened, this area would have been locked out in the past if we go back 20 years ago and explored that for wilderness potential.

Another trend that I'm really alarmed with is the trend toward buffer zones. The buffer-zone legislation does have teeth. Mr. Seiberling in June testified to me that that's not a problem. That's not the intent of the law, but we are seeing in 1986 how the intent of the law of the Wilderness Act of 1964 alone has gone awry.

The same with the ranchers who have testified have seen powerlines that are included in the intent are not allowed, and yet, so,

the intent alone is not good enough to protect them. And also, we as companies do not spend high-risk dollars in the buffer zones or potential buffer zones. We just simply don't.

So, I would say the bottom line is, please, let's go back to basics. Let's continue to allow Americans and especially Nevadans to live off the land. I endorse your responsible approach to wilderness legislation and express a plea not to sell our rights down the river for the pleasure of special interest groups, especially those areas which are not suited for wilderness because of resource potential.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rowe follows:]

PREPARED FOR

Honorable Senator Hecht and Members of the Senate Hearings Board

Public Hearing on S722, February 12, 1986, Winnemucca, Nevada

Prepared by: Winthrop A. Rowe
Senior Supervisory Geologist
Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company
Reno, Nevada

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you concerning your proposed Wilderness Legislation for the USFS land in Nevada. Firstly, I wish to congratulate you for making a stand for realistic and reasonable Wilderness Legislation for Nevada's Forest Service land. I am convinced that historians 50 years from now will show that realistic approaches like yours and Congresswoman Vucanovich and Senator Laxalt have made valuable contributions to our country's economy, heritage and stength. Unfortunately, these same historians will also reveal the devastating negative effects of the few policiticans of the 1980's that are making a strong stand in favor of the special interest groups who are demanding unreasonable quantities of public lands to be locked up in the ultimate level of restrictive management. I believe we all are in favor of the Wilderness concept and we all consider Wilderness a resource worth saving. However enough is enough and only areas truly qualified for Wilderness and areas with no vital multiple use and/or resource potential should be withdrawn. This is the original intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964...A concept long since forgotten by special interest politicians.

I have a general theme and request from my talk here today: Please let's get back to basics and common sense. Our great country was founded on and gained its strengths through the profitability of natural resources industries. Yet this seems to be the biggest target of certain irresponsible politicians. As an example, a Nevada politician was recently quoted as complaining about greedy out of state corporations working in Nevada. I wonder how General Motors, Holiday Inn or Caterpiller Tractor companies (to name just a few companies who employ thousands of people in Nevada) feel about this type of statement. As a geologist, I have traveled, and have many friends who have traveled, to other countries where the freedom of making a profit is non-existent. None of these countries have the standards of living nor individual freedoms that we have. Seemingly, only the politicians in these countries are pleased with their methods of government. Too much government control is not for the people, it is for the politicians who seek power. Wilderness is the ultimate governmental control over the multiple use concept for land management. We can all draw our own conclusions from this.

As an exploration geologist, I deal in the future. My career and business is to look for new mines for future years. I can honestly state the aggressive wilderness proposals by Reid and Seiberling would damage and hinder the future mining in Nevada.

First, I would like to point out that Mr. Reid's statements that his wilderness proposal affects less than 1% of the land in Nevada is mis-

leading. Through bombing ranges, present wilderness, federal and state game refuges, municipalities, private ownership and Indian reservations, over 30% of the state's land is already withdrawn from multiple use. Furthermore, over 50% of Nevada is covered by thick alluvium or valley fill sediments. All wilderness proposals are located in the remaining mountainous terrain. Therefore, Reid's wilderness proposal actually affects over 3% of the best multiple use and mineral potential land. If we are to add the upcoming BLM Wilderness Study Areas and assume an aggressive wilderness withdrawl of these lands, we may be speaking of withdrawal of 10 to 15% of the prime mountainous areas of Nevada that are being considered for wilderness withdrawal.

The second point I would like to make is that Nevada has emerged as a true gold province. There are very few places on the earth's crust where gold deposits are concentrated as they are in Nevada. Recently published reserves over the past 5 years are tabulated at over 35 million ounces of discovered gold deposits in Nevada for a gross value of over 12 billion dollars (at $350/oz Au). These reserves will undoubtedly be mined and the dollars generated thereby will be run through Nevada's economy over the next 20 years. As geologists, we have proven that Nevada is the best place in the U.S. to search for new deposits. The problem is that these deposits are already located and established in the earth's crust. Unfortunately we cannot move them to better facilitate political boundaries such as defined by wilderness areas. I know of no major geolgic conflict caused by mineral

potential in the areas proposed in the Hecht Wilderness proposals S722. However, there are many geologic reasons for significant mineral potential in the additional wilderness areas proposed by Reid or Seiberling. I have included a few of these specific reasons in an appendix to this speech. Our business is hampered by very long odds of success. Please don't allow legislation to be passed that will further cut the future of this great business. The success story mentioned above for Nevada is the result of a major focus (perhaps the last stand in the U.S. for the mining industry) of our industry in this state. Further, restrictions and withdrawals will assuredly damage the future of this success story.

Another alarm is the trend towards buffer zones around Wilderness Areas. I personally have heard Mr. Seiberling say that buffer zones are not a concern and that it is not the intent of the law to destroy industry within the buffer zones. This assurance gives us no peace in our business. The intent of such laws has not always been followed. For example, as pointed out earlier, the 1986 Wilderness Legislation proposals are far beyond the original intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act showing that intent alone is not adequate protection. Secondly, I am here to tell you that our legal advisors tell us, in the mining industry, that the buffer zone legislation already in effect has teeth...Big Teeth. In fact, I would speculate that most companies are like us try to avoid spending high risk exploration dollars in buffer zone areas. The Reid proposal alone could possibly change our entire mining future for Nevada.

Another basic point is that through various state and federal agencies and especially the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), our multiple use lands are already protected. Present laws already assure that only lands with natural resource potential will be disturbed and that disturbed lands will be reclaimed.

A final point is that I am particularly surprised at comments made over the past year, implying that Nevada is not doing its fair share in contributing to the Wilderness Preservation System. Nevada is a state with many withdrawn areas for nuclear weapons testing, supersonic training, bombing ranges and hazardous waste dumps as well as many national and state game refuges. I am sure all of these are of great benefit to our country, but it appears we have already given a fair share to the Federal land withdrawal mechanisms. It is also ironical that the realistic 137,000 acre wilderness proposed by you, Mr. Hecht, is more acreage than that wilderness acreage designated in Ohio, Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia combined.

In summary, it is time to get back to basics. Let's continue to allow Nevadans to live off the land. I endorse your reasonable approach to wilderness legislation and express a plea not to sell our rights "down the river" for the pleasure of special interests groups. Especially in those areas not suited for wilderness because of resource potential.

APPENDIX

The following comments give an exploration perspective of potential mineral resources within the wilderness area proposed by either Reid or Seiberling. These areas have very high potential for future discovery of mineral deposits.

EXCELSIOR - The area is known for mercury, gold, tungsten occurrences. It has not yet been explored in light of new exploration technology, but does have favorable geologic indicators of hydrothermal activity.

ARC DOME - This area has excellent potential for gold, silver and possibly copper, lead, zinc, antimony and barite. Many favorable alteration zones and anomalous geochemical values are known. This area has very high potential for discovery of a major deposit. Major mining companies have conducted considerable reconnaissance activities in recent years and appear to be encouraged.

ALTA TOQUIMA - Two ages of hydrothermal alteration and mineralization are known in this general area. Several companies have been very active searching for gold in the immediate vicinity over the past three years. The area has excellent potential for gold and molybdenum mineralization.

TABLE MOUNTAIN - This area is similar to the Independence Mountains 15 years ago in that companies are just now recognizing the excellent mineral potential represented here. Several major programs through different mining companies are in progress in this vicinity. Favorable breccia pipes, host rocks, alteration and anomalous geochemical concentrations of precious metals are all indicators in a highly mineralized area.

GRANT RANGE - This area has dire need of considerable exploration effort before being locked up. The area in question has favorable mineralizing host rocks, jasperoid silicification and several mineralized alteration occurrences. Much work needs to be done in this area. The QUINN RANGE fits in this same category.

CURRANT MOUNTAIN - Little is known about the mineral potential of this area. However, geologists have found favorable host rocks, jasperoid alteration and anomalous geochemical values of precious metals, all indicators of excellent mineral potential.

WHEELER PEAK - This area has long been known for tungsten potential. It also has indications of berylluim, rare earths, thorium, gold, silver and fluorine. It is a highly mineralized area with considerable past mining activities. It's concentration of strategic minerals alone makes it important to maintain in the multiple use category.

SANTA ROSA - This may be another highly prospective area. It has had limited past activities, but has favorable geologic characteristics of high mineral potential. The recent Amax gold discovery in the nearby Slumbering Hills indicates this region has high gold discovery potential that has not been recognized in the past.

TOIYABE CREST - This area is highly mineralized and has undergone considerable mineral activities since 1855. Favorable host rocks and minera-

lizing intrusives are known. This area has numerous occurrences of precious and base metal mineralization.

A sincere thank you.

Woodhouse a Rowe

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
William Feyerabend.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM C. FEYERABEND, WINNEMUCCA, NV

Mr. FEYERABEND. Right. I want to thank you for the opportunity to listen to all aspects of this issue this morning.

Now, first, I'd like to bring the contribution of the mining industry down to the personal level. I was transferred in June of last year to help in the development of the new Chimney gold deposit. Since then, I have seen a number of people employed in this increased to over 60.

Two years from now, 200 people will be employed for a generation mining that deposit.

Now, these jobs do make a difference in a town of 5,000. It's hard not to find a sense of optimism in Winnemucca now, and that's not based on the superconducting supercollider. It's based on the new deposits opening up, and that is our contribution, giving this community a sense of optimism for its economic future.

Now, second, I'd like to say that mining would not be an issue if everything to be found had been found. Yet, 1 year ago today, February 12, 1985, our deposit land discovered when President Kennedy was assassinated, Nevada did not have a gold mining industry. It today produces over half of the gold in the United States.

Our deposit is typical of what has led to this. Those 2 million ounces of gold in places lie under only a few inches of soil or a few feet of dirt; yet, what you see on the surface is so subtle that no prospector ever dug a trench on it, and we have never found evidence that anyone ever cracked a rock for a sample. And you might wonder how this could be.

Well, the answer is the answer is a secret, and I can't tell you. But what I can say is that as with all new discoveries, we've learned new tricks and are going to have to go back over the land we covered before with old ideas and cover it again. And I think the track record of gold exploration in Nevada shows this would be successful.

And finally, I'd like to say this issue points up divergence of interest in society. On one hand, we have the people in the mining industry for ground prospect, and we have the need of rural Nevadans for a better future than pumping gas and slogging hamburgers and trail mix.

On the other hand, yet, the need for a dedicated wilderness.

Now, democracy involves give-and-take, and to me, the answer to this is to start with our most pristine and beautiful lands as wilderness which we have done with Jarbidge. See what the problems are; see what the demand is. And if you need more, you can always add more and do it based on experiences we are talking about today.

In this spirit and in conclusion, I'd like to say that I cannot support the Reid or Seiberling bill, but I can support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Feyerabend follows:]

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM C. FEYERABEND

1. I have been employed as an exploration geologist for 15 years. I moved to Winnemucca this spring to help in the discovery and development of the new Chimney gold deposit.

2. The Chimney deposit is one of the latest in a spectacular series of gold discoveries in Nevada since the mid-1960's. These are a tremendous resource, containing gold reserves measured in the tens of millions of ounces. The mines are a major employer in rural Nevada.

3. The Chimney deposit contains at least two million ounces of gold and lies immediately under the surface. Yet the surface indications are so subtle that no prospector dug a trench on it and we never found evidence that anyone had even cracked a rock on it. It was found by the right geologist walking over the right ground who took the right sample.

4. I refuse to believe the acreages being discussed have had the painstaking work necessary to preclude the presence of one or several major gold deposits.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Odin Christensen.

STATEMENT OF ODIN D. CHRISTENSEN, ELKO, NV

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you. My name is Odin Christensen. I'm a resident of Elko, NV. As a resident of the State of Nevada, I appreciate this opportunity to participate in this forum on the future of our State's lands.

The issue of wilderness legislation is of particular concern to me. By profession, I'm a geologist. I'm also a member of several conservation organizations. I'm employed by Newmont Exploration assigned to the Carlin Gold Mining Co. and have permission today to speak on their behalf.

The view I wish to express is that multiple-use land mining—that is, management to provide a reasonable balance between uses—is the highest and best use of the land.

My particular concern is also for mineral exploration. Mining brought Nevada to statehood, and the minerals industry continues to provide a strong economic contribution to the State of Nevada. Newmont Mining Corp. alone employes more than 600 people in the State with an annual payroll in excess of $18 million and contributes some $10 million annually in State and Federal taxes.

While the current wilderness bills do not in any way affect the present operations of Carlin Gold, passage of the Reid-Seiberling bill will negatively affect mineral exploration and perhaps preclude development of similar operations in the future.

It is a fact of nature that there are a limited number of mineral deposits and that their locations are fixed. No legislation can define where ore bodies will be found.

It is also a fact that there deposits can be very elusive. After over 100 year of intensive prospecting in this State, we are still finding new deposits even within seemingly thoroughly-explored districts.

While industry has made significant strides in developing new exploration tools, none of us here believe that we have found even a small part of all of the existing mineral deposits.

Further, none of us can guess the deposits that our society might require in the futue or what technologies we might have available for mineral extraction.

The early Nevada prospectors could certainly appreciate our interest in gold, but could they have imagined uranium, molybdenum, barite mines, and they certainly could not have anticipated the technological advances which now permit the economic extraction of exceedingly low grade and metallurgically-complex ores.

It simply is not possible by Government survey to state with any reasonable assurance that an area is devoid of potentially-available mineral occurrences. If we desire to preserve a strong mining industry in this State, we must assure that the lands remain available for mineral exploration.

I recognize also that wilderness is clearly a limited resource which may need protection. Clearly, a reasonable balance must be struck between the needs of our society for resources and our needs for recreation and solitude. I believe that the approach to Nevada

wilderness offered in the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich legislation is a reasonable approach to the designation of wilderness in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Stan Snodgrass.

STATEMENT OF STAN SNODGRASS, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER, NEVADA GOLD MINING, INC.

Mr. SNODGRASS. My name is Stan Snodgrass, and I am a security and environmental officer from Nevada Gold Mining Inc., a subsidiary of Amax Inc.

What I have is a statement from our general manager and general views on the company's stand on this issue.

Nevada Gold Mining, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amax, Inc., supports the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill for the following reasons:

The Hecht-Laxalt bill is a more sensible bill in that more preparation has gone into it in reference to the impact on the interest in the affected areas such as ranching, mining, off-road vehicles, hunting, fishing, et cetera. And my congratulations to your bill-writing staff in that aspect.

Some of the areas asked for as wilderness, in particular the Santa Rosa Mountains, by the Reid bill has mineral exploration potential that our company in particular and the general mining industry would be very much interested in over the next few years.

Development of these potential mining areas would be of great economic base to the community.

Any wilderness bill removes some general public access, prime lands. Selective groups only, which is your hikers and backpackers, would have access to these prime areas. Senior citizens would be elminated. Hunters and fishermen who normally drive 4x4's into the area, would be eliminated, and weekend prospectors, who are in direct competition with us, but they can discover potential lodes of strategic or valuable minerals.

As an alternative, we support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill as a responsible alternative to no bill at all.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

I want to move along but before we do I want to ask you a couple of questions. Do any of you see any minerals in the four areas in our bill?

Mr. ROWE. I've mentioned that in my talk, and we see no conflict with the area that you have proposed.

Senator HECHT. Do any one of you see any?

Mr. SNODGRASS. The ones you have proposed, negative.

Mr. ROWE. But we do have serious conflicts with these other areas that are proposed.

Senator HECHT. From then on we do.

Mr. ROWE. From then on we have serious conflict.

Senator HECHT. I don't mean to say this in a self-serving way, but with this regard to this new gold coin bill we just passed, many CEO's of your companies, maybe some of you, have mentioned to me that this could double the gold production in America. How do you feel about that?

Mr. ROWE. I would agree. Also you are talking about strategic minerals. Twenty-two million ounces a year come from Africa, and it's just very possible that in the future or in the economic strength, gold may become a strategic mineral because it has a very valuable resource base.

And just minting this gold in the United States does bring a demand, and it does indeed shift the focus from the investor away from the South African krugerrand to the United States production of gold. Yes, I would agree.

Senator HECHT. OK. Thank you very much. We're going to move right along.

Panel 7: James Craver, Andy Hampton, Virgil Larios, Edward Mayberry, and Walter Vetter.

OK. Jim Craver, you're first.

STATEMENT OF JIM CRAVER, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NV

Mr. CRAVER. OK. I am Jim Craver. I have lived here in Humboldt County for 36 years. Now, I came here in 1950.

So, I have a letter here that I'd like to read. I'm just a concerned citizen—a proposal against the wilderness areas in the State of Nevada.

To Whom it May Concern: Why do we need to allocate certain areas as so-called wilderness areas in the State of Nevada? These lands have been free to the public for many years, and now, these certain areas are to be designated as wilderness areas.

These wilderness areas will prohibit the people from enjoying nature's beauty and deprive them from enjoying what is rightfully theirs.

I don't think there should be any wilderness areas for the reasons stated in the papers presented by Laxalt-Hecht and Vucanovich bill, HR 1686.

The designation of wilderness areas puts the land in a single-use category, hiking only, and absolutely prohibits mining, heli-skiing, snowmobiling, and so forth, and will curtail and eventually, eliminate livestock grazing.

This also means that no one would be permitted to hunt, fish, go camping, or enjoy any recreational sports unless a person could walk into the areas. What about our senior citizens? Would they all be deprived of enjoying our beautiful State? Some of them can't walk into these areas. Perhaps they would like to just enjoy the scenery, too.

I cannot believe that anyone would want wilderness areas and spoil the State by cutting it into parcels. Why not leave it alone as it is now?

I have heard the area around Blue Lake is now a wilderness area, and no one can drive into the lake for fishing or camping. Is that what will happen to all other recreational areas with no one being able to enjoy them? Let's all think about this.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Andy Hampton.

STATEMENT OF ANDY HAMPTON, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV

Mr. HAMPTON. My name is Andy Hampton, charter member of Citizens for Mining, Battle Mountain, NV.

We have had 9 years of problems with bureaucracy as to the public lands and the use of the public lands, locating mining claims, and operating mining claims.

I'm not a lawyer, but I have given a great deal of study to the Constitution, and if you carefully read the Constitution, you'll find that the whole program of the wilderness area is unconstitutional for the simple reason the big lie has been spread that the Federal Government owns the land. The BLM is a little more cautious. They said, "We manage the land."

Managers have no authority to take possession of property, dispose of it, lock it up, or any other approach.

So, Senator Hecht, I challenge you and your committee to check into the constitutional provisions, and you'll find that it prohibits the Federal Government from owning the public lands in the State except for certain limited uses.

You say, "Who owns it"—the public. This being a sovereign State as other States, the land is held in trust for the people of the State by Federal Government, but when they conduct a program as though they owned that land, it's completely unconstitutional as you will find. And I challenge your committee to check into this thoroughly and make this report to the Senate.

Basically, that's my post. My correspondence has to do with the senior citizens and their inability to go into the public land.

[The letter follows:]

To: SENATOR CHICK HECHT.
From: ANDY HAMPTON, 232 E. 2nd St. No. 18-1, Battle Mountain, NV 89820.
Subject: Wilderness in Nevada.

Speaking for us Senior Citizens, I would like to point out that the concept of locking up vast scenic areas to every one except the back packers, is unrealistic and unfair to a majority of the people.

I am retired and am an outdoors person and certainly do enjoy the view from the mountain peaks, but could not do this if the use of helicopters are barred. An example would be to fly to the highest peak of the Ruby Mountains.

On another occasion, being able to view a section of the High Sierra's in California by traveling on an aerial tramway, to the top of Mammoth Mountain.

We agree that certain rugged and remote areas should be considered for Wilderness. We favor the smaller areas as proposed in the VUCANOVICH BILL.

Sincerely,

ANDY HAMPTON.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Virgil Larios.

STATEMENT OF VIRGIL LARIOS

Mr. LARIOS. Thank you, Senator Hecht. My name is Virgil Larios. I'm a native Nevadan. My grandparents on both my father and mother's side were pioneers into the Jarbidge area in the early 1900's.

All of my adult life, I've made my living in the mining industry.

Also, I have a good working and personal relationship with local ranchers in Winnemucca and Elko areas. I grew up in Jarbidge, NV. I attended grammar school there.

Over the past 21 years, myself and my family have been in and about the present 64,000 acre Jarbidge Wilderness. We spend a lot of time in Jarbidge during the summer and fall months.

During the past summer, on two occasions that I visited the Jarbidge Wilderness, that is located on the south end of the Jarbidge Canyon, I checked the log book. On both occasions, there were less than two names for more than a 1-week interval.

I cannot and will not believe that the mound of people that get any use out of wilderness justifies making our prime areas into single-use areas.

Furthermore, I do not understand why the area has been labeled wilderness to make it more attractive to backpackers and such. Most of the mountains, valleys, and deserts of Nevada are already

wilderness, but wilderness that is already or has the potential of multiple use.

The U.S. Forest Service has the laws and regulations to protect the forest plans against any abuse and have done so in the past without forcing industry out of existence in these areas.

We need multiple-use areas. I will support that additional 137,000 acres of wilderness in Nevada in the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill as a reasonable compromise. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Ed Mayberry.

STATEMENT OF ED MAYBERRY, LOVELOCK, NV

Mr. MAYBERRY. Senator Hecht, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ed Mayberry. I live in Lovelock, NV. As you can see, I'm sort of handcapped. There are thousands of people who are like me in my same condition; some better; some worse.

I enjoy fishing, rock hunting, and taking my dogs on hikes. I like to get out and watch wild horses and other wildlife. We all do, but how far do you think I can walk?

Before you go and pass this legislation, please think of how the handicapped people in Nevada feel. Thank, you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Walter Vetter.

STATEMENT OF WALTER VETTER

Mr. VETTER. My name is Walter Vetter. I'm a 62-year-old native of Nevada. I have been in the real estate business for the last 8 years, and before that, I was a drilling contractor.

I'm against any land being added to the wilderness area. The economy of rural Nevada is based on agriculture and mining which provides most of the taxes and employment. Most Nevadans recognize the need for less regulations. We don't need outsiders to turn this State into a place to put more bureaucrats. As a partially disabled senior citizen, and I'm sure there are millions of us, any addition of wilderness land bars us as a group from entering these lands along wth millions of families with small children.

Multiple use makes the land available to everyone. Wilderness only favors some backpackers who add very little to the economy and life in general. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Andy Hampton, I do want to bring out that you are not the first one on the 3 days of hearings to bring up the constitutionality of the wilderness, and when I get back to Washington, I will have some people check that out for me. You're not the only one.

Mr. HAMPTON. We were talking as we came over, to be very honest. If the people were pushing for wilderness, our lawmakers who finally approve it, the President who signs it—if they are not willing to find out what the Constitution says and abide by it, how much are they going to listen to us?

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I did want to bring up that you are not the only one to bring that point up.

Mr. HAMPTON. I'm sure of that. Anybody that reads the Constitution is bound to find it.

Senator HECHT. We're going to go on. Thank you very much. We have to move along to panel 8 right now.

Jim Shepherd, Fred Stewart, Francis Schultz, Bue Larson, Lee Locke, and Linda Dufurrena.

Jim Shepherd.

STATEMENT OF JIM SHEPHERD, VICE PRESIDENT, WINNEMUCCA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Mr. SHEPHERD. Thank you, Senator Hecht. My name is Jim Shepherd, and I own Winnemucca Gun & Sport, and I am vice president of the Winnemucca Business Association. I'd like to address the economic impact of increased wilderness on this area.

As the owner of a hunting and fishing store, I oppose any legislation that would reduce the opportunities for outdoor recreation here in Nevada. Any additional single-use wilderness areas would severely impact the ability of the average hunter or angler to pursue their form of recreation.

There is a rule of thumb that the use of an area decreases with the square of the distance from vehicle access and the cube of the elevation change. In other words, you don't see many deers taken 5 miles and 3,000 feet away from the nearest road.

Proponents of increased wilderness try to say that wilderness won't affect hunting and fishing, but how is the Nevada Department of Wildlife going to stock fish or manage the wildlife species if they can't drive their vehicles or fly low over the wilderness areas?

Hunter and angler use will be limited to the very few who can afford to keep a string of pack animals or hire an outfitter. The physically handicapped would be barred from using these areas, which is a very gross violation of their civil rights.

Remember that Federal funds cannot be spent on any project that does not provide for handicapped access.

Our senior citizens who enjoy using our national forests and other Federal lands would, for the most part, be denied access to these areas.

Those of us who do not support increased wilderness do not want to restrict the backpackers from using this land, yet, those backpackers want to exclude all of us.

Increased wilderness would have an adverse effect on the economy. The value of the livestock industry would drop due to increased animal unit months. The expenditures on hunting and fishing by those living in this area would drop due to decreased usable areas.

Tourism for hunting and fishing would take a major drop that would not be offset by the very few backpackers that would be using the proposed wilderness area. The backpackers tend to buy their supplies at home and leave almost no economic benefits in the areas visited.

The minerals industry would be the biggest loser if wilderness designation would preclude any mineral development.

The mining companies provide most of the economic development around rural Nevada, and everyone would lose if this mineral development were halted.

In conclusion, I would like to ask that no additional land be locked up as wilderness in Nevada. The lands that have wilderness character will remain so on their own, and those areas that currently have roads, or "ways" as the Federal jargon calls them, will remain to have roads. The best economic interests of rural Nevada will be best served with no additional wilderness area. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Fred Stewart.

STATEMENT OF FRED STEWART, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NV

Mr. STEWART. My name is Fred Stewart. I am 26 years old. I have lived in Nevada all my life. My family has lived here in Humboldt County for 122 years, and I'm a rancher.

But I would like to talk today not on how wilderness is going to affect agriculture, but how it's going to affect the American industry.

Now, Nevada has a lot of land. I know that the areas proposed for wilderness are a small portion of the total acreage of the State of Nevada. I think what we should consider is not the quantity of land but the quality. The proposed areas encompass most of the prime hunting land and nearly all of the stream fishing in the State of Nevada.

In my opinion, wilderness is for the benefit of the minority of the population of America. It is primarily for the young, strong, and healthy individual who is able to hike into the back country. It is not for the senior citizen who is physically unable to venture into these areas. It's for the American who wants to take a small son or daughter to a mountain stream and share the joy of a child catching his first fish.

I remember when I was 4 or 5, my dad and I went camping and fishing in the Santa Rosa Mountains. It was a time that I'll always remember fondly. I hope that when I have kids, I will be able to share the same experience with them, but if the areas are made into wilderness, I won't be able to because they will be inaccesible.

There's no way that you can take your young kids and hike 3 or 4 miles back into the mountains. Right now, I'm young and strong enough to get back into these areas, but what happens when I grow older or if I should become handicapped? Then must I sit on the outside—sit on the outside and just remember the way it used to be? I will no longer be able to hunt, fish, or camp, or do the things I want to do.

I feel that is simply discrimination, discrimination against the whole, the handicapped, the less-than-perfect human being, and that is wrong.

America's land should be managed so that the majority of the population is able to get the most use from them, not locked away for the privileged few with the health and the money to enjoy them.

There are areas in this country, in this State in fact, that are more than able to accommodate those individuals who are inclined to put on backpacks and hike into the country. I see no purpose in

taking away more land from the people to give to those few individuals.

I hope you will remember that the needs of many outweigh the needs of the few. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I am going to deviate just one moment and say publicly and for the record, last night all of our group had a wonderful meal in Winnemucca, and Linda and her husband were celebrating their 30th anniversary. So, happy anniversary to you.

STATEMENT OF LINDA DUFURRENA, PHOTOGRAPHER AND RANCHER

Mrs. DUFURRENA. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Are you going to invite me to your 50th?

Mrs. DUFURRENA. Hopefully. We had the saloon lady also.

I am Linda Dufurrena, and I am testifying as a photographer and a rancher. As a photographer, one of my goals has been to record life and landscapes of Nevada. Pursuit of this goal takes me and many pounds of camera equipment into the most remote corners of the State.

I don't feel that I have disrupted the land in any way, and in fact, feel that I have been able to bring the beauty of our unique State to many people that do not have the opportunity to enjoy it firsthand.

Now, I worry that I could not continue to pursue this dream if required to carry all my camera equipment plus camping gear on by back to reach many miles of proposed wilderness.

As a rancher, I feel my generation has seen the effect of severe overgrazing by some of our predecessors, and we have learned that abuse of the range hurts us more than anyone else.

We who live in close contact with the land see how the land works, what uses it can effectively absorb, and what kinds of abuses can cause long-term damage. We—better than some stranger in Alaska or Washington, DC—know how to live with our land.

I feel it is important to maintain strict reclamation laws for industries that use the land. And I thus support responsible multiple use of Nevada's public lands. I would rather not see any other wilderness created, but as an alternative, I support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill with provisions for protection of Nevada's waters and for Nevadans presently using affected lands.

I believe the key to successful resolution of this issue lies in the individual responsibility and concern of those who use the land, not in extensive legislation designed to eliminate those of us who still live and work on the land.

I am also wholeheartedly opposed to out-of-State political lobbyists attempting to seize control of Nevada's public lands for the exclusive use of backpackers and what I feel is the planned elimination of any multiple use on public lands.

Should proposed wilderness in Nevada be so designated, I would rather see perhaps one existing access road through the area with a permitted user fee, rather than no access at all. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify.

Senator HECHT. Thank you all very much. We are going to move right along to the next panel, Panel No. 9. Kent Arrien, Douglas Glenn, Dave Cassinelli, Al Licht, and Stephanie Licht. Kent Arrien.

Mr. ARRIEN. Thank you, Mr. Hecht, for coming. We'd like to see you up here more often on more issues other than this. I understand this is a big issue, but don't make this the last time.

Senator HECHT. Try to get started.

STATEMENT OF KENT ARRIEN, ON BEHALF OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Mr. ARRIEN. Really, My name is Kent Arrien. I'm representing the Humboldt County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. We feel that none of the wilderness bills currently in Congress adequately address the wilderness question here in Nevada.

For this reason, we would like to take the opportunity to support what we feel is a reasonable compromise. Included in our written statement is a copy of the Nevada Department of Wildlife's position statement on wilderness.

We strongly urge our congressional delegation to consider wilderness legislation along these lines. Thank you for your time.

If I may, may I speak personally?

Senator HECHT. Sure. You have 2 minutes.

Mr. ARRIEN. Thank you, sir. What I'd like to talk about is I don't really feel that the public had a large enough chance to really go over all three of these bills. Myself, personally, I don't think any of these bills are worth the paper they are written on. This is too big of an issue, and I don't think there's enough public input put into this.

At the beginning, you asked our elected officials if they'd like to go along with one of these bills or if they would rather leave it as it is. I would like to see you ask where everybody on the rest of the panel is at because I think that's important.

I think a lot of people feel that there's just three bills, and they have to make a decision on that. I don't think that they think there's any other way out other than the Vucanovich bill.

I think that a lot of people are going that directon because, like I said, they don't feel there's another way out. If it came down to three lessers—these bills, these three bills, I would have to go along personally with the Vucanovich bill which you support.

But personally, I wish you'd go back to Washington, look this whole thing over, and leave Nevada the way it is until a better bill can be brought up. Thank you for your time.

[The policy statement follows:]

POLICY STATEMENT
REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT, USE AND MANAGEMENT
OF DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA
ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS, STATE OF NEVADA

Pursuant to NRS 501.105 which mandates the Commission to establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat in the State of Nevada, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, during its regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 1986, adopted the following position statement with respect to the establishment, use and management of designated wilderness areas on U. S. Forest Service lands in the State of Nevada.

1. The Board of Wildlife Commissioners supports the recommendations for wilderness of the U. S. Forest Service as documented in the 1985 draft forest plans for the Humboldt, Inyo, and Toiyabe national forests in addition to three areas identified in HB 3302 as amended. Those areas and approximate acreages are:

Area	Approximate Acreage
Arc Dome	94,000
Mt. Jefferson	31,000
Mt. Charleston	32,000
Mt. Rose	33,000
Boundary Peak	8,800
Table Mountain	113,000
Jarbidge Addition	23,440
Ruby Mountains	67,093
Wheeler Peak	60,151
Mt. Moriah	81,743
Grant Range	53,383
East Humboldts	27,000

2. The Nevada Department of Wildlife presently has primary wildlife management responsibilities on the above-noted designated wildnerness areas. The Department shall maintain primary wildlife management responsibility in those areas including exercising management prerogatives for the continuation and/or establishment of hunting, fishing and trapping seasons. The Department shall continue to exercise its management responsibility in the above-noted designated wilderness areas in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and/or other land management agencies.

3. Livestock grazing should continue within the above-noted designated wildnerness areas with the same uses, privileges and restrictions as set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act (Colorado version).

4. Since acreages and boundaries in the above-noted designated wildnerness areas are approximate and the United States Forest Service will be delineating exact boundaries after the passage of a Wildnerness Bill, the Nevada Department of Wildlife should be afforded the opportunity to work with the U.S. Forest Service in making final boundary determinations which will take into consideration wildlife and associated management needs, including hunter access, where appropriate.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Douglas Glenn. Not here. OK.
David Cassinelli.

STATEMENT OF DAVID J. CASSINELLI

Mr. CASSINELLI. My name is Dave Cassinelli, and I'm here to speak against Congressmen Reid and Seiberling's wilderness bill, which is proposing some 900,000-plus acres of Nevada's national forest land to be put into wilderness area, and to speak against the inclusion of the Santa Rosa Mountain Range into a wilderness area.

The Santa Rosa Mountain Range was a proposal for wilderness in the early 1970's and at that time was turned down for wilderness area because of the lack of wilderness characteristics. The Santa Rosa proposal is approximately 20 miles long, 6 to 7 miles wide, running north and south, and consisting of 80,000 acres. The mountain slopes are visible from the Quinn River Valley on the west side and Paradise Valley on the east side.

The crest or top of the mountain range is approximately 50 yards wide with canyons dropping off to the Quinn River Valley and to Paradise Valley. Visible from the top of the mountain range and all the east slopes of the range are Highway 8–B, towns of Paradise Valley, Galconda, Winnemucca, Highway 95, all ranches in Paradise Valley and their county road systems.

Visible from the southern end of the mountain range are Highway 95, Highway 8–A, Interstate 80, Amax Mine, city of Winnemucca, Paradise Hill Estates, Silver State Valley, and its farms and roads.

When looking from the west slope and top of the mountain range, Highway 95, 8–A, Kings River Highway, the town of Orovada, and all farms in Quinn River Valley, and the county roads are visible.

From the north end of the range, in sight are the town of McDermitt, Highway 95, and the farms and ranches in the ranches in the north end of the Quinn River Valley.

Also, along the south, west, and north slopes is a low-level air corridor for B–52's.

When in the canyons on a still morning one can hear the sounds from the traffic of 8–B on the east side and the traffic of 95 on the south and west sides of the range and view and hear low-flying B–52's. The range has numerous fences, water troughs, and small roads throughout the proposed wilderness area.

With the valleys readily observed and containing constant reminders of civilization and giving to the mountain range a loss of solitude and a loss of primitive and confined type of recreation, generally, one can say that the man's works are substantially noticeable in the Santa Rosa Mountain Range, and it is of very low wilderness quality.

Thus, it is my feeling it should remain as the Humboldt National Forest Service recommends in their environmental impact statement, a multiple-use area.

My family is fifth generation Nevadans and over the years have used Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forest extensively for recrea-

tion. It is my feeling that Nevada has enough wilderness with their present 64,000 acres, but as a compromise, I am willing to support only the Laxalt and Hecht and Vucanovich wilderness bill.

And the last paragraph, I'd like to knock off. Could I make some comments about earlier statements?

It was stated earlier that a brisk walk in the Santa Rosas on the north end with the viewing of 18 eagles and viewing of mountain lion tracks and a few sights, beautiful sights, constitutes a wilderness area. This is far from what is a true picture of the area.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize quickly.

Mr. CASSINELLI. Another gentleman from Reno stated—I'm also from the Reno/Sparks area—that he had cow pastures on the edge of his street at one time, and they are no longer there.

That is private land that was put up and used as private land, and we are talking about national forest and BLM land in this situation and has no comparison to that situation.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Al Licht.

STATEMENT OF ARMOND J. LICHT

Mr. LICHT. My name is Al Licht. I've been a Nevada resident for 10 years now, and I have lived and worked in the vicinity of most of the areas which are being proposed for wilderness designation in the various bills presently before Congress.

I feel that placing a wilderness stamp on these areas would be limiting their use to a very small segment of the population; namely, healthy, young adults. I don't have anything against healthy, young adults, but I think they have to share.

The average age of the population of this country has been steadily getting older, along with myself, and according to the experts, we'll continue this trend for some time to come.

I feel it would be unfair to lock our seniors out of most of the best recreational lands in the State.

Although the various bills being presented purport to make allowances for multiple use such as grazing and mining, it has been evident in other areas designated as wilderness that the restrictions imposed have made these endeavors financially unfeasible if not absolutely impossible.

When livestock and mining are forced to be curtailed, rural Nevada loses a valuable tax base. This causes additional burdens on local governments. As has been shown in Colorado, wilderness proponents not only want to lock up the land, but now they want to lock up the water.

This would cause an additional hardship on Nevada's already-shrinking agricultural community.

The proposals at present represent only those areas of Forest Service land; however, we still have to hear from other governmental agencies such as BLM and the Department of Wildlife. If you add their proposed wilderness areas to what is already designated wilderness, what is included in the present bills and the public lands that have been already compromised by the military, they make quite a large package.

I feel the only fair way to place any more of Nevada's land in wilderness is to combine all the various agencies' request into one bill so that the public will have a better understanding as to the amount of land to be withdrawn.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Stephanie Licht.

STATEMENT OF STEPHANIE LICHT

Mrs. LICHT. I am Stephanie Licht, 42, part-time cowgirl, born in Los Angeles, raised there, educated at Cal-Poly with degrees in agricultural science and related studies in fields of conservation, range management, ecology, soils, and zoology.

I've lived in Nevada 10 years, and if forced to choose, Senator, I would prefer the bill that you sponsor, but at this time I would humbly propose all wilderness bills now before Congress be tabled until an accurate scope of tangible and intangible costs of wilderness can be accurately determined, and my reasons are as follows:

First, proposed wilderness areas are under strict Federal control and use designations and are therefore, not at the mercy of the populations, and they are not going to go anywhere.

Second, we have to date hundreds of thousands of wilderness areas to study. There's great discrepancies which exist between allowances under the 1964 Wilderness Act and its interpretation and administration. Before we need more wilderness, we need to know what the real effects are.

Third, one of the earliest recorded commandments to man is that he "replenish the Earth and subdue it." Under wilderness interpretations, the land is technically abandoned encouraged to return to the wild state.

One lightening bolt can denude the entire wilderness areas leaving poor soils prone to wind and water damage. Reforestation or seeding is discouraged. So, burns are uninhabitable by wildlife. Loss of vegetation and topsoil render ground water retention limited causing floods, followed by dried-up creeks and springs eliminating fish and fishing.

Without wildlife, vegetation, or water that are we really preserving for our posterity? History is replete with the dire fates of those people who choose to set at naught the counsels and commandments of Almighty.

Fourth, whatever else happens, the American taxpayer's burden is the last consideration. Representing only about one-third of the total U.S. population, each taxpayer now owes $19,000 in Federal debt. The taxpayer has no choice but to pick up any tax shortfall left by three groups of people adversely affected economically in wilderness.

As we talked about, families forced out of businesses, their supliers, and the jobs of those who depend on the product. Unless the taxpayer insists on responsible cost determination, alternative funding, and prudent spending, the Federal deficit will continue to put the taxpaying minority deeper in debt.

Fifth, wilderness proponents point with righteous justification at the relatively small amounts of land they want for noble purposes. This is reminiscent of the hag promising the woodsman fame and

fortune for a pound of flesh. We know when payday fell due, the hag demanded the woodman's heart.

So it is with these particular lands in Nevada. They provide the key to Nevada's rural economic health. Nevada's lands are not items laid buffet style where anyone can come along and say, "Oh, gee. This looks good. I think I'll have some." They are the heart and home of generations who struggled and died sculpting them into what they are today.

For these reasons, I respectfully request all proposals for more wilderness and/or national parks be tabled until we can determine with certainty what real sacrifices, curses, and costs of all types we shall be facing.

Thank you for coming.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I want to move along, but I want to point out one point. Kent Arrien, you mentioned how important it is.

I believe it is very, very important, and for that reason, we have five hearings in the State of Nevada, not one hearing in Washington as Congressman Seiberling had.

Mr. ARRIEN. Well, thank you, sir. I have one question more. Why do we not have possibly hearings prior to building bills? Why don't we get together before we make a bill.

Senator HECHT. Well, we have been talking to the people. My staff and I have been out here quite often. And you have to have something to talk about before you can have an official hearing, if that sets the record straight.

Mr. ARRIEN. OK. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. And the Forest Service, I am told, has had several hearings.

In order to accommodate some schoolteachers who have to get the classes started, we are going to move to panel No. 12, and we'll get right back to panels 10 and 11. Thank you all very much.

Panel No. 12. Doug Conner, Bill Swindle, Roger Johnson, Alan Wright, and Sean Wilson.

STATEMENT OF DOUG CONNER, WINNEMUCCA, NV

Mr. CONNER. Thanks for the opportunity, first of all, to express my views. I'm a schoolteacher here in town and a longtime resident of the State of Nevada, but I can't say a native. I've lived here 30 years, and I'm familiar with those industries which Nevada calls its livelihood.

I'm not against progress. I'm not against ranching or mining, and I'm not even against growth, but most of all, I'm not against wilderness. I am in support of H.R. 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act, which would designate 14 wilderness areas and create Nevada's first national park.

Nevada is growing fast, and now is the time to set-aside a few of the Great Basin's uniquely beautiful areas before it's too late. Once these areas are developed or disturbed, it may be impossible to restore them to their natural condition.

Why wilderness? I like wilderness because it refreshes my spirits. It's a place where I can escape from the stress and pressure of day-to-day existence. but perhaps more important, If I never go to these

areas, I need to know that they exist. I need to know that there's places on this planet where other creatures can be protected from the instrusions of human progress, pristine environments similar to those in which these creatures evolved.

I've heard of a lot of conflict between Nevada's mineral and ranching indsutries and the wilderness concept. I've heard people say how ranching and mining and the economy in general will be negatively affected by wilderness designation. I know that every effort has been made when H.R. 3302 was written up to avoid these conflicts.

I have read that existing grazing rights will be preserved at their present levels. I have read that existing mining claims will be honored and development of them will be permitted. Only new claims in wilderness areas are prohibited.

Yes, I know that wilderness designation means that a few mineral deposits perhaps will remain unexploited forever. So what? I feel this is a small price to pay for the natural beauty that will last forever. There are some things that we can't put a price on.

After all, when the mineral deposit is spent and the miners and engineers move on to develop another location, what's left but a hole in the ground, a scar on the Earth's surface, and a few or maybe a lot of dollars in someone's pocket?

Senator HECHT. I'll have to ask you to summarize now.

Mr. CONNER. OK. In summary, support H.R. 3302, Nevada Wilderness Protection Act. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. And who is next?

STATEMENT OF SEAN WILSON, WINNEMUCCA, NV

Mr. WILSON. Sean Wilson, sir.

Senator Hecht, my name is Sean Wilson, and I live here in Winnemucca. I'm representing myself and as a registered voter in Winnemucca and Humboldt County.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you today regarding wilderness in Nevada. I am a mathematics teacher at Lowry High School in Winnemucca. I am vice chairman and acting chair of the Democratic Party here in Humboldt County. I have a BS degree in renewable natural resources and a master of education degree from UNR. I'm an Eagle Scout.

I support wilderness legislation for Nevada and Humboldt County. I oppose S. 722 because it does not set-aside enough acreage and because of its proposed changes to the Wilderness Act of 1964.

I support H.R. 3302 because it's more realistic in number of acres and because it does not modify the Wilderness Act of 1964.

More than anything else, I think the time is now for the Great Basin National Park. This proposal will surely help Nevada's tarnished image as a nuclear dumping ground and military chessboard.

The mining interests in this State and County seem to have a powerful lobby against wilderness. H.R. 3302 only proposes to set-aside less than 2 percent of Nevada's 70 million acres. That leaves 98 percent for everybody else.

Besides, mining is not totally banned from wilderness. On the other hand, I, personally, have seen the damage done by the barite mining operation in the Kingston Canyon region of the Toiyabes.

Yet, I truly believe the the Nevada mining industry and wilderness can coexist without conflict because there are no major mining operations in the proposed wilderness areas.

As far as grazing is concerned, all one has to do is look at a topographic map of the area in the Santa Rosas or the Humboldt County and realize that most of the land is very steep. Cattle are not mountain goats. They won't be able to get into many of these proposed areas. Maybe somebody is planning to air drop them by parachute.

Wilderness will not hurt by the economy of a rural area like Humboldt County. Instead, it's been proven that the economy around other established wilderness areas is bolstered by such things as guiders and outfitters, and tourism and business can increase.

These protected wilderness areas are quite visible on a map when you drive by. This is an invitation in itself for tourists and others to come take a look.

Finally, I would like to mention something about numbers. H.R. 3302, 1 percent leaves 99 percent. How can this be unfair to the majority?

And also, I would like to close by quoting a parable which I ran across this year. It was directed toward the field of education, but I have no trouble changing it to go right along with the concept of wilderness.

It's entitled, believe it or not, "A Gem of an Idea." It is a parable told by Wiliam Cunningham, education advisor to Governor George Deukmagian of California. This is how it goes:

> A man was walking in the desert when a voice said to him, "Pick up some pebbles and put them in your pocket, and tomorrow you will be both sorry and glad." The man obeyed. He stooped down and picked up a handful of pebbles and put them in his pocket.
>
> The next morning he reached into his pocket and found diamonds and rubies and emeralds, and he was both glad and sorry, glad that he had taken some; sorry that he hadn't taken more.

This is so with education. I also think it's so with wilderness. Thank you, sir.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, and what's your name?

Mr. SWINDLE. I'm Bill Swindle. Do I have to talk through this?

Senator HECHT. Yes, because otherwise, we won't be on the record. That's the whole purpose of this hearing.

STATEMENT OF BILL SWINDLE

Mr. SWINDLE. I am supposed to be here telling you, Senator Hecht, how I feel about wilderness.

After talking to some people in the crowd and talking to some of the Sierra Club members, I am torn. I am pro wilderness. I want to see our country left in the way it is, but on the same right, I don't want to see a rancher lose his right for grazing.

Like I said, I'm sorry. I feel like I'm wasting your time here. I came to be a pro wilderness, but what I am asking you to do, as our elected official, is to seriously think that to do the best for this

land—this is a beautiful State we live in, and the country is spectacular.

And I'm sorry. I am not as prepared as my two friends here. And I feel strongly about saying it, and I hope that you do what is necessary to save not only the land but to save the rancher's way of life.

The mining—I'm not that—you know, I would really like to see mining not happen up there because I'd hate to see it destroyed. But if there was some way we could make the miners reclaim the land, fix it back up after they got done with it, maybe that would help us.

I'm sorry. I'm sorry for, like I said, wasting your time like that.

Senator HECHT. You are not wasting our time. That's what we are here for, and I appreciate the fact that you all left school to come over here and testify. Next time, bring your students. I'd like to get them here. Some of them were here this morning, and we appreciate that very much because I think that is there land, and as our generation goes on, it's going to be up to them to take care of our lands and our State.

Mr. SWINDLE. It would be nice to have something left for them.

Senator HECHT. Listen, we have to get right along. I thank you for leaving school, and I wanted to accommodate you so you can get back.

Panel No. 10: Dub Thornley, Joe Gamello, Dave Sant, Frenchie Montero, H.G. Brown, and Ruth Bunnell.

Frenchie, are you going to talk for everyone?

Mr. MONTERO. Can I take the time of all of them?

Senator HECHT. Let me go over those names again in case any of your are in the audience.

Dub Thornley, Joe Gamello, Dave Sant, Frenchie Montero, H.G. Brown, and Ruth Bunnell.

Frenchie, before you start, I got to ask you a question. How did your son do in rodeo? That night we were together out there, he was doing great. He won that night.

Mr. MONTERO. Pretty quite lately because all us ranchers are going broke. Can't let him go as much this year.

Senator HECHT. He's got a great future. Don't you think so?

Mr. MONTERO. But I got to say one thing. My other boy got a 4.0 in college, and that's better for me than probably the rodeo.

Senator HECHT. Takes it from his old man.

Mr. MONTERO. No. No.

Senator HECHT. OK. Frenchie, want to start?

STATEMENT OF FRENCHIE MONETERO

Mr. MONTERO. I want to thank you for being here, Senator.

Another thing, I hate to see that the teachers left right now because, for one thing, I hate to see people, if they are teaching our kids, just their views and not our views, too. I feel pretty bad about that.

I hope not because they are losing the whole point of how many acres of land it is being taken by the wilderness thing. They are just talking on the Forest Service.

But here out there at Leonard Creek—and I am a lifetime resident there. My folks came to this country in 1903, and we have been Nevada residents since about 1967, and so, this makes me feel like I know a little bit about it.

But I'm going to talk a little bit on the BLM wilderness area thing instead of the Forest Service one.

In my area alone, which I run on the Pine Forest Mountains which Blue Lake is on, and I run on the Sheldon Antelope Refuge, and I run on the Black Rock Range, and I have run on the Black Rock Desert. And across the valley from me is the Jackson Mountains.

Well, right there in that one area alone they are considering of taking over 500,000 acres of land. Somebody mentioned, the mayor did, this morning, 25,000 acres on Sheldon Antelope Refuge.

But on Sheldon Antelope Refuge they are talking over 350,000 acres. On Black Rock Desert, I can't say the exact amount, but somewhere around 50,000 acres. They are talking the north/south end of Jackson Mountains. They are talking Pine Forest which already has been closed for the last 7 or 8 years.

So, the Forest Service thing is just a drop in the bucket to what they are considering of the whole thing.

And I talked to some people in Idaho. Sure, they allow grazing on the wilderness areas up there, but the restrictions have gotten so strong, it's just about to a point with those people that it isn't worthwhile grazing their cattle on those areas.

And as far as for mining claims or anything on the Pine Forest Mountain, legitimate mining claims that were taken before the thing—even though it's only a designated area, they stopped the people. People came in 2 years ago, tried to sneak in, and they were getting gold out of it. They were cut down by the BLM.

Yet, it is not approved through Congress yet, and just because the designated area—they have already closed these people off of it, and makes it pretty hard on me to go along when it isn't even a full wilderness area that they have closed people off.

And I'm not reading my thing, and I feel kind of guilty. I don't see how they could ever keep vehicles off of all these areas like the Black Rock Desert. The Pine Forest area has been designated wilderness, but vehicles still keep driving on the mountains, and these roads still exist.

All of a sudden, they are considered as designated wilderness area. With these roads there and that, I don't know how a lot of these areas could have been considered for wilderness areas in the first place. It just doesn't seem right.

And these areas, and especially the Pine Forest Mountains—it's already designated wilderness. So, you can't go up there with vehicles and that, and it just makes it for people like me that are already there and have horses and that and the people that can afford them to keep horses all year round, have these big horse trailers and that. They are the only ones that can hunt up there, really, truly now.

And sure, it's encouraged, you know—what do you call them—the guides that make a profit off there. It's already happened up there. People are having guide service up there last 2 years and taken hunters out.

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Well, people that used to go on their own can't do it as much now because they have to walk into the area, and it's put a real hardship on the hunters.

The areas are not wilderness now. They could still be wilderness whether they are put or not put. They can still be wilderness areas.

And up there on the Pine Forest, my family and I walked up to Blue Lake with the Sierra Club, and gosh darn, that was 5 years ago, and they can still walk up there, and they can still do all the things they want, whether they are wilderness or not wilderness

So, rally, we have the beauty that's there, unbelievable, right now without really making a wilderness. I figure that when an area is made a wilderness, it just brings more of the undesirables into that area.

That happened to us on the first year. We got one of these communes moved into the area, and they figured they could just take over the whole areas because it was designated wilderness.

I figure we have a truly wilderness area now without being made a wilderness area, and let's keep it that way where it's for our people, people of Nevada and the people from other areas that want to come to it, and I want to thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Frenchie. You know, for a cowboy, you express yourself real well.

Mr. MONTERO. I get mad.

Senator HECHT. You can hold your own with any of those Washington attorneys. We got to get you back in Washington, Frenchie.

Mr. MONTERO. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for testifying.

The next panel, panel No. 11, is Ruth Tipton, Kay Austin, Jack Fenkell, and is there anyone on the witness list who did not testify and is here now and wishes to testify?

If so, come on up.

Ms. Tipton.

STATEMENT OF RUTH TIPTON, DEPUTY RECORDER-AUDITOR, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, NV

Ms. TIPTON. I'm Ruth Tipton, raised in Gabbs, NV, and am now deputy recorder-auditor for Humboldt County. I write and photograph Nevada history, and I am a volunteer archeologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife at the Sheldon Refuge.

During my years in Nevada, my livelihood has been dependent on either mining or ranching. I have been involved in researching Nevada history and prehistory for over 25 years, and I am vitally concerned that Nevada's natural and prehistoric resources remain available to all.

The concept of wilderness is discriminatory. It favors a small group of young, physically fit individuals and excludes the elderly or handicapped from enjoying the natural resources of this State.

It would be unfair to lock up a vast area of Nevada for one special interest group and destroy the livelihood of ranchers, miners, sheep men in the process. A great portion of Nevada is already unavailable to the public in the atomic testsite and other military withdrawals.

I am particularly concerned that access remain available to prehistoric rock art and other archeological sites as a great effort is presently being made for their study.

A site I need to study now is within the confines of the testsite, and I know firsthand the frustration of missing a block of important data that may be unaccessible forever.

It is often necessary to study archeological sites from the air, which is not permitted in wilderness areas.

Unsupervised backpackers could destroy the integrity of valuable sites without the historical agencies being able to retrieve material or to monitor the impact on the sites.

I worked briefly on recent discovery at Stillwater, and I learned that in these protected areas, jurisdiction and funding have to be addressed even before the damage to a site can be mitigated.

The inability to fight range fires would cause extreme damage to both manmade and natural features.

The incidence of range fires would be increased with the absence of livestock grazing, to wit: What happened here in Humboldt County this year. If the cows had eaten the grass, most of Humboldt County would not have burned.

The multiple-use concept had worked well in the past and would be more in keeping with the American doctrine of the quality for its citizens.

I therefore support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill as the most reasonable compromise with the well-funded but misguided special interest groups that seek to lock up Nevada. I do not support any further wilderness withdrawals.

In summary, I would say that I do backpack and go horseback into most of the areas, but working as a volunteer, it's most time effective to be able to go in with four-wheel drives and not have to spend all your time trying to get to these sites.

Thank you very much for coming to Humboldt County.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I want to introduce some other members of my staff in Nevada.

Bill Farr from Reno. Bill, would you stand up? [Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Pete Kelly from Carson City. [Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Mike Miller. Mike, will you stand up? [Applause.]

Senator HECHT. And Mark Brown. [Applause.]

Senator HECHT. We wanted a good number of our staff to come out so they could listen to all the testimony too.

And I want to congratulate all of you who have stayed. This is a very, very unusual happening because in Washington, people testify, then run out. So, the mere fact that you have stayed all morning shows your interest and makes me happy that we are here.

We have heard from 42 witnesses today, and we appreciate the interest in this hearing on a snowy day, but you are used to snow out here.

We expect a total of about 500 witnesses to testify this week, and many, many more statements after the hearings, and we will hear from several thousand people.

The hearing record is open until February 28. Send a copy to my office in Reno, Carson City, or Las Vegas, or on to Washington.

Thank you for staying, and it's been a great pleasure to be here today.

[Whereupon, the hearing was recessed, to reconvene Thursday, February 13, 1986, in Reno, NV.]

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

Reno, NV.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Reno, NV, Hon. Chic Hecht presiding.

Present: Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. I want to call this hearing to order.

This is the fourth of the many hearings we are going to have in the State of Nevada. We started off in Ely, Elko, Winnemucca. And to all of you who got here early, I'll give you just a little tabulation of which way the poll is going before I start my prepared remarks.

We have had between 500 and 600 people turn out for our first three hearings—108 who expressed an opinion. Here is a breakdown: 21 percent favored no wilderness at all; 64 percent favored the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich proposal; 12 percent approved the Reid bill as amended; and 3 percent favored more wilderness. I asked my staff for these figures this morning, and I thought you might be interested in them.

I want to introduce a few people to you. Tony Bevinetto and Tom Williams from the committee staff in Washington. Will you raise your hands, Tony and Tom? They are from the staff of the Energy Committee. Senator McClure has graciously allowed us to have these hearings in our State, because I explained to him what an explosive issue this is in this State, and he felt we should have the five hearings.

Scott Cameron from my staff. Barbara Vucanovich, who I should have introduced first. Congresswoman Vucanovich is going to be with me. Alan Hansen from her staff. Kelton Abbott, representing Senator Paul Laxalt. Bill Farm, Pete Kelly, Mike Miller, and Mark Brown from my staff. Please raise your hands.

I want to thank all of you who are here this morning; those of you who will soon be presenting testimony, as well as those who will not be testifying, but who, by your presence here, are showing us how important the wilderness and national park issues are to you.

I am very pleased to be holding this hearing in Reno today. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has a limited budget for a hearing such as this, but I decided many months ago that the financial and time constraints are clearly outweighed by the importance of giving the people of Nevada the fullest opportunity to express their views on wilderness and on national parks. I have heard quite often from organizations, such as the Nevada Department of Minerals and the Sierra Club, but this is my chance to hear from the people of Nevada.

This is the fourth of five hearings I am holding each day this week across the State. Since each hearing location is several hundred miles from the next and many people wish to testify, it is necessary for each person testifying to limit their oral remarks to 3 minutes. Written statements will be included in the official hearing record in their entirety, and will be given equal weight with oral testimony.

In order to make sure we have a full 3 minutes for each witness, I would generally try to limit my questions here and now, and instead, we will contact you later with any questions I might have after having an opportunity to reflect on the testimony.

We are here in this State to begin the legislative process in the Senate Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Subcommittee that will decide the general uses of the national forests in Nevada. The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area, and use decisions.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see such a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit the oral testimony to 3 minutes. I ask that you withhold applause and comments, as it will cut into the witnesses' time.

Any additional materials to your statement, maps, and so forth, you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington. The hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can submit a copy to my offices in Las Vegas or Reno, or the subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition. Please summarize your statements.

There will be a printed hearing record of all five hearings which you can obtain by filling out a self-addressed sticker at the table indicated.

Tony, where is that table?

Mr. BEVINETTO. It's out in the lobby.

Senator HECHT. Right, out in the lobby. A copy will be sent to you in a few months.

Witnesses are asked to please hold on to your written testimony until your panel is called to the witness table. We ask all witnesses to look at the order in which they are scheduled to testify and if you are in the next panel, as the panels are called up, come to the front row seats. It's just like a baseball game: A panel testifying, one on deck, the rest in the audience.

The lights are used to time the witnesses. Green means go; yellow means 1 minute remaining; red means complete your statement or thought and stop.

Before we get started, I want to set the record straight on three points:

First, there has been a lot of confusion about the national park proposal. I will not be taking a firm position on this issue until I have heard from all of you and the other Nevadans who will be testifying this week. You should know that you are not going to be forced to choose between either a national park or wilderness.

You do have a third option: Keeping things as they are now. If the people of Nevada want to keep the land just as it is now, I will work to make that happen..

Second, the national forest wilderness controversy will not be the last time Nevadans deal with the wilderness issue. This is not the last chance we will have to create wilderness in our State, and it is not the last time we will have to examine the appropriations of wilderness designation for our land.

Even as we speak, the Bureau of Land Management is busy developing its own wilderness proposals, reviewing millions of acres of public land for possible wilderness status. The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering another million acres or so for a wilderness status. Even the National Park Service may have a modest proposal of its own.

Third, as you probably know, I cosponsored one of the wilderness bills before the Congress. This bill took a deliberately conservative approach to wilderness designation in our State. It has been endorsed by most of the State's county commissions and by the State legislatures. I think this indicates that the bill has public support in Nevada, but I am not locked in concrete about making some adjustments either way, if that is the will of the people of Nevada.

Now, we're very privileged that Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich is with us and she is going to be with us all day, and I am now going to call on her to make her statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

Good morning. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you who have come to express your opinions on the Nevada wilderness issue and the proposed Great Basin National Park. I'd like to express my appreciation to Senator Hecht for holding this series of hearings on this important issue.

You in this room and the surrounding communities are the Nevadans that will be directly affected by this proposal, and your words, I am sure, will be given the utmost consideration because this is your home and it's our home. Many of you are ranchers, miners, hunters, businessmen, and concerned citizens who have a stake in the way Congress treats your land.

We have an extensive witness list before us, as Senator Hecht mentioned, so I will not take up any more of your important time. Again, thank you all for coming, we appreciate you participating, and we will listen to what you have to say.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Barbara. I'm not too tall so I can't see in back of the room, but I understand we have a large group of students that are here today, and I want to certainly commend them. Stand up students. Where are you?

I want to commend their teachers for bringing them over here. You know, every stop we have been at, Ely, Elko, and Winnemucca, different classes have been brought to these hearings and I think that's great because it's their land that we're talking about.

Our first witness today is Hon. Harry Reid, U.S. Congress.

We cannot have applause because you are going to take away from the individual speakers.

Harry.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRY M. REID, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. REID. Good morning, Chic and Barbara.

I don't have any poll that my staff gave me, but I am familiar with two polls, one conducted by Wayne Pierson, which is scientific in nature, that shows the vast majority of the people in this State favor wilderness, and one conducted by the firm of Laslus & Melman, a Washington based firm, that shows in excess of 80 percent of the people in this State favoring wilderness.

I just arrived in Reno from a tour of rural Nevada. Rural Nevada is a heartland of the State, of course. And once again I found very distressing information that relates to why we're here today. In White Pine County one small businessman lost a $3,000 a month account because he expressed support for a national park in our State. A rancher in Ely, which of course is an economically depressed area, asked that all businesses be boycotted. This was because he supported the Great Basin National Park. Another man, supposedly a responsible business person, said a national park would be a blow to the star wars program and space exploration because of minerals.

In community meetings, video tapes are being shown about the preservation of our scenic lands that end with the ominous warning: The Russians are coming. The truth is, the Russians are not coming to Nevada, but a national park will bring tourists to our State. The truth is, a national park will not harm space exploration, but will allow us to explore the wonders of our State. The truth is, Ely businesses are being harmed by a boycott when they all could be benefited by a national park. The opponents of scenic lands legislation are using hysteria to thwart this effort in Congress.

What are these hysterical myths? That these lands will be cut off from senior citizens, that our mining industry will be devestated, that ranchers will be unable to graze their stock, that buffer zones will surround wilderness areas, that water rights will be stripped away, that hunting, fishing, and trapping will be prohibited, that privately owned lands will be taken. These are the myths.

The truth is the designation of a moderate amount of wilderness in our State will send a message to the rest of the Nation about the

beauty of Nevada. The truth is the issue is not one of environmentalism or of mining.

I spoke extensively with miners before I introduced the bill and since I introduced the bill. I've removed areas with mineral potential from consideration. This issue has become political. This is not good for Nevada.

While this is unresolved, nearly 4 million acres of land in Nevada are locked away for multiple use. Less than 1 percent of Nevada is not too much to ask for future generations.

It is our responsibility, as elected representatives of Nevada, to return to Washington and be reasonable. We must never forget that our actions today will affect Nevadans for generations to come. I ask you to join me in helping our State and its future.

Senator HECHT. Harry, the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife, and the Park Service all have wilderness designations. With the large amount of acreage that you proposed, how would you address those?

Mr. REID. Well, I think that we should first consider that what we're talking about today, and that's U.S. Forest Service land, and we're talking about Forest Service land in my proposal, is about six-tenths of 1 percent.

I would be happy to look at the BLM proposal. I haven't done that. I am, quite frankly, Chic, much more conversive with desert because I was raised in the desert, and I would be very happy to study those areas. I think that we should do that and not confuse this issue.

The State of Nevada is going to be called upon to create wilderness on less than 1 percent of its land. If we do that, we will still have almost half of what Utah has, which is the next highest State, and they have five national parks also. The average in wilderness is 3.4 percent of the State's land. We have less than 1 percent.

Senator HECHT. Utah has 63 percent of their land as Federal, we have 87 percent.

Mr. REID. But what does that have to do with it? We're talking about U.S. Forest Service land.

Senator HECHT. Anyway, Congressman Mo Udall, one of the great conservationists in Congress, criticized the House committee on the national park and he asked how we in Washington, without a hearing in Nevada, can create a national park? How do you feel about that?

Mr. REID. First of all, you're not quoting Congressman Udall correctly. Congressman Udall said he thought that it would be good to have hearings. However, he was misled. Congressman Udall did not realize that myself, Barbara Vucanovich, yourself, Congressman Seiberling, Congressman Weber, Congressman Darden, a number of representatives, toured the State for 6 days. And every place we stopped—I want to make sure everybody understands this—every place we stopped in the State, we had environmentalists, we had miners and ranchers, and in a number of places, including Washoe Valley and Elko, we had large rallies where everybody has been able to talk. So, we have had hearings.

In addition to that, we had a full day of hearings that took 9 hours in Washington, where people, some of whom are in this

room, came and testified. Se we not only had field hearings in the State of Nevada, but we had hearings in Washington.

But separate and apart from that, Chic, I commend you for holding these hearings. I think it's great that you are holding these hearings. I don't criticize your holding these hearings, I commend you for doing so.

Senator HECHT. Well, talking about hearings, why did you have a hearing on the national park after you passed a bill?

Mr. REID. Well, again, you're wrong. We didn't pass a bill.

Senator HECHT. It was reported out of the committee.

Mr. REID. Well, sure.

And also, as you know, because you've been told this, the chairman of both subcommittees—that is Chairman Vento from Minnesota, and Chairman Seiberling from Ohio—and the chairman of the full committee, said that if there were any problems that developed after the field hearings were held, he would allow me to make any changes in the proposal that I felt were necessary. That proposal is still standing, and in effect, what the chairman of the full committee, Chairman Udall, has said, along with the rest of the House of Representatives, until there is some movement in the Senate, there is going to be no movement on the House floor.

If there are problems that develop, and, you know, I talked to some people right after the hearings were held, and I think there's some changes that should be made. There's some problems in Table Mountain and we can make some boundary adjustments there, and Mount Moriah, which is in all of our bills, there are some adjustments that need to be done. So, I am happy to do that.

Senator HECHT. But, Harry, these types of adjustments should be made at the committee level, not on the floor of the House.

Mr. REID. Well, I mean, it would be nice if they were done on the committee level.

But, regardless of that, if there is an agreement made that can be done, there should be no problem. I don't see why we should nitpick.

Senator HECHT. Because you are talking about boundary lines, affected ranchers, affected miners, and the people of the area.

Mr. REID. But I think that's part of the wisdom the Founding Fathers had when they set up our Nation. We have a bicameral legislature. If we miss something in the House, I know that you and the other Senators will do what is necessary to correct it. And then if it's different than a House version, we will come back and hold a conference and work it out. It's a very good process we have.

Senator HECHT. I appreciate the confidence and faith you have in me.

When John Seiberling's committee added wilderness to the bill, I found that strange.

Mr. REID. Well, they had in the House, of course, a number of bills. They had Barbara's bill, they had my bill, and they had the one that was basicaly the committee bill with five or six cosponsors.

And they used my bill as a vehicle. And they attached various areas to it, which I don't agree with. I think that we can do some things to make a bill that's more in keeping with what I think

should be in the State of Nevada. For example, I disagree with the areas they attached in the Railroad Valley.

And, as I have said to your staff, if there's some movement in the Senate, we'll make sure that those areas are taken off with an amendment on the House floor, because I know that they'll be taken off the House floor.

Senator HECHT. Do you agree with the bill now as reported out of the committee?

Mr. REID. No, I think there are some changes that have to be made. I have the authority from Chairmen Udall, Seiberling, and Vento to make those changes on the floor of the House.

Senator HECHT. You have the authority to make changes on the floor of the House?

Mr. REID. That's right.

Senator HECHT. Well, that's good.

I don't know how the House works, but in the Senate, all of these things have to be taken up in committee, and one person never has the right to make such dramatic changes on the controversial subjects.

Mr. REID. That's why the Senate moves so slow. We move fast in our House.

Senator HECHT. The Governor has mentioned economic programs in the State. Many mining companies and geologists testified before us. We have in the area of 125 companies right now on exploration and bringing a tremendous amount of economic value to Nevada. Do you welcome these companies into our State?

Mr. REID. Sure. And that's why I have worked with them. And the first person I called after having made a decision on what bill I wanted to introduce was Fred Gribson who, as you know, has a great history of supplying facts for several generations in Nevada.

And I explained to him that one of the reasons I arrived at the bill that I did is because I felt it was important that we take into consideration what has taken place in Nevada, especially in recent years with mineral and mineral exploration.

My bill is in keeping with what the mining association originally wanted. You know, they didn't disagree to 300,000 acres. And that is one of the main reasons I eliminated the areas along the Railroad Valley. Chic, I know you know this, my father was a miner, my brother's a mining engineer, he graduated from the Mackey School of Mines, I feel that if there is one area of life that I am comfortable with, it's mining. And I have great appreciation mining.

I just thought it was somewhat unusual that after they said they wouldn't oppose areas that are in my bill, suddenly there is some opposition to them. That's what I disagree with. The people that I have talked to in my office and in these field hearings that we have had in Nevada, I think that we have to give them consideration. And that's why, Chic, that I think it's great that you and I and Barbara have agreed to make some boundary judgments at Mount Moriah because there's some mineral contents there. I have agreed to make some boundary adjustments in the Table Mountain area. There are some adjustments we need to make in the Jarbidge area. This is because of what the mining industry has told me, and I am happy to go along with that.

Senator HECHT. We have a lot of witnesses. I don't want to belabor the testimony, but one point was brought out on all three former hearings, and that is the State rights issue for Nevada.

People absolutely opposed to the bill which I introduced, along with Barbara and Paul felt that we in Nevada should have control of our destiny. And they resented the fact that Congressman Seiberling and some other eastern Congressmen have entered into it. And they also resent the fact that in the State of Ohio where Congressman Seiberling is from, they only have 77 acres of wilderness inside the West Sister National Wildlife Refuge. Congressman Seiberling wants to create 18,000 times that amount in Nevada. This is a States rights issue. How do you feel about States rights?

Mr. REID. Oh, of course, I'm in favor of States rights apple pie, and Chevrolets and all that kind of stuff. But I think we have to be realistic. I am sure you will be happy to know, even though I am not especially happy, that Chairman Seiberling has announced his retirement. He's been very ill and he is going to retire from the House and not run again.

One of the reasons, of course, I am concerned about what takes place in Nevada is what's taken place in Ohio. They've raped the land, they've ruined it. There is no forest land left from which to create any wilderness.

And I think we as a delegation, that's me, you, Paul, and Barbara, should get together and do something that's reasonable. It's our decision ultimately, because if we don't agree, it's going to remain with 3.6 million acres tied up.

I personally was appreciative that a Congressman from Georgia, one from Oregon, one from Pennsylvania, and one from Ohio—would come to Nevada and look at our beautiful land—they are on that committee, that's their job. The thing that I gained most from them was their wonderment that Nevada was more beautiful than they could ever believe.

And on a serious note, Chic, sure, I believe in States rights. I think they are important. But that doesn't mean that the committee that you serve on, Senator McClure's committee, doesn't have an obligation to the whole country.

And I would hope that we, the elected representatives from Nevada, could in effect get our act together and get a reasonable bill out of there and put this thing behind us. I hope we can go back with the resolve to do that. I know I'll try.

Senator HECHT. Well, these hearings will certainly give us a lot of food for thought. And you were on the helicopter with me when Congressman Seiberling got off the helicopter and said this should be a national park. I mean without a hearing and that was it.

Mr. REID. Where were we then?

Senator HECHT. In Ely.

Mr. REID. Well, I don't know about that.

Senator HECHT. Well, were we on the same helicopter? We had two.

Mr. REID. We could have been on different helicopters. But, as you know, he may have said that, but that didn't make it happen.

Wheeler was originally set up to be wilderness. The reason it was changed to be a national park is because I sent representatives to Ely after the bill had been introduced, and the chamber of com-

merce and other people in White Pine County felt it was an appropriate time to have a national park.

After they said that I came back, met with Chairman Vento of the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee and the bill was amended at that time. So, Congressman Seiberling may have wished it, but he couldn't make it happen until I agreed that it happened.

Senator HECHT. The White Pine County Commissioners were divided on it. They have never come up with a decision.

Mr. REID. It's my understanding, I was there on Tuesday, that there was a 3-to-2 vote, they favored the national park.

Senator HECHT. Well, that seems fairly divided to me, three to two.

Barbara.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator.

I just wanted to ask Harry one or two questions. When we were out in the cow counties and out hearing testimony, we heard from most people that their extensive use of the land was tied to their livelihoods. And I think what I really want to find out is: Do you think that the industries of mining, ranching, and other Nevada activities, such as hunting, are a positive contribution to the communities of Nevada?

Mr. REID. Yes; I think that we have to recognize that mining, as an example, contributes significantly to the State's economy. In fact, last count, some 2 percent of State's activities was by mining.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. What about ranching?

Mr. REID. Ranching, of course, is important. You know, I was raised in a little town, Searchlight, we had three ranches which were very important to the economy of Searchlight. And it's the same all over.

But that's why I feel so comfortable with this legislation, Barbara. Those with ranching interests, if they understood realistically what would happen, would know that they're in as good a shape with wilderness as without wilderness. And I think that we have to help them understand this hysteria that has been created by outside interest. Wilderness really is not something that is going to take away from their ability to raise cattle and to contribute to the economy which is so important.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Harry, you know, you were talking about two percent of the State's economy was dependent on mining, but, you know, when you look at some of the smaller counties, that percentage is much, much higher in those counties.

Mr. REID. No.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. For instance, when you are looking at Washoe County, obviously it's a small percentage.

Mr. REID. I was in Hawthorne yesterday and we know what's happening there, with the military being phased out of the base, and they have two gold mining operations and that's their economy.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. That's their economy.

Mr. REID. And it's very important. However, wilderness won't hurt that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Wait a minute, that isn't quite true.

It is true that the operations that are now functioning can be grandfathered in or can get in there to mine. But they will have to mine with a pick and shovel. And, besides that, there's going to be no other development allowed in there. So, to say it's not going to be affected is absurd.

Mr. REID. Well, there's no wilderness proposals in Mineral County.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I'm not talking about Mineral County, you are. But I am talking about other areas.

Anyway, we have lots of people to hear from. But one thing, you said you disagreed with the additions Congressman Seiberling put in, then do you think that Congressman Seiberling was mistaken to add to your bill?

Mr. REID. Sure, I think he was mistaken. I don't agree with the additions he made. I don't serve on the Committee or the Subcommittee. You do.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I know.

Mr. REID. And I didn't have a vote, I couldn't stop it. But I do have the commitment of a majority of members that serve on that committee. That's a committee that's controlled by the Democrats and they committed to me that whatever I want they will go along with.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. You know, you've got to remember there are 435 of us there, so I don't think your commitment is going to exactly carry it.

Mr. REID. Well, Barbara, as you know, that what goes on on the House floor is determined by what the committee wants, and I feel without question that with Chairman Udall and Chairman Vento supporting me, it will be as easy as apple pie, motherhood, and Chevrolets.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Interesting.

Senator HECHT. What have you got against Ford?

Mr. REID. They fired Iacocca.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. You don't think it would be in the best interest of Nevadans to take our first step into wilderness with a little bit more conservative approach?

Mr. REID. Well, Barbara, here's what we have to—and I am throwing these words around conservative and all this kind of stuff—I think that I am being conservative talking about saving our lands. If we make a mistake and create too much wilderness, we can always correct that. But if we don't create enough, it's gone.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. How do you correct that? How do you correct that once it's done?

When you look at what's happened in Jarbidge, we're already adding twice the amount that's in there and it's very difficult. I would be happy if you and I could cosponsor something to take some out of Jarbidge.

Mr. REID. I'm sure we can. I'll be reasonable and look at that.

I think, Barbara, that the 1964 Wilderness Act says that there has to be periodic reviews for a number of things. One is the mineral interest.

And, first of all, we're talking about a tiny speck of this State. You know no one wants to mine Mount Rose, Mount Charleston,

the Rubies, or the Table Mountain area. There are a few areas in my bill that some people may want to mine, and I would be happy to talk to anybody that wants to mine them. The miners wrote those areas off. Now, if they have changed their minds, I will be happy to sit down and talk to them. There are other things we can do, such as further study, which I am opposed to, on a general basis. I think we should get all this done and behind us. But I just think that we're talking about such a small area of land that has no mineral potential that we should get it behind us.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. If there is no mineral potential, then why do we have to put it into wilderness? If it's not going to be destroyed by mining, then why does it need to be designated as wilderness.

Mr. REID. Because, Barbara, there are a lot of other people that destroy the land. The miners aren't the only people that hurt the land.

We have now over 1 million people in the State of Nevada. We have these metropolitan centers of Reno and Las Vegas. The people are moving out, and that's why we have the 1964 Act; it was determined that if something was not done very soon, our forest lands would be ruined.

And that's why I thought it was important to set aside a tiny little bit, a conservative, using your term, amount of land for wilderness. And if we make a mistake and create too much, which, for heaven's sake I don't think would happen, but if we did that, we could always go back and take it out of wilderness.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Are you aware of any other wilderness areas that have been declared in our United States that have had this wilderness withdrawn as a result of reevaluation?

Mr. REID. No, but the law allows it. And the reason is, Nevada's the last State to have created wilderness. We know that Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Washington, those States just recently, since you and I have been in Congress, completed their wilderness acts. We're bringing up the rear. And there hasn't been a time even to do the further studies.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I know the Senator's getting nervous because we have a lot of people to hear from, so thank you, Senator.

Mr. REID. Thank you.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thanks, Harry.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Harry, for coming.

The Honorable Brian McKay, the attorney general of Nevada.

STATEMENT OF BRIAN McKAY, ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. MCKAY. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, Congressman Reid, thank you for the opportunity to allow me to present the views of my office concerning wilderness designations in Nevada.

I am going to submit detailed written comments, so I'll be brief. It is not my intention this morning to discuss the wisdom of wilderness designation, the philosophy of the Federal Government's involvement in State land management, or the appropriateness of forever barring the vast majority of our citizens from ever setting foot in certain areas of our most rugged, unique, and beautiful

countryside. In my opinion, the Congress is to be applauded and commended in its efforts to preserve our natural and scenic heritage for each and evey one of us to appreciate and enjoy in the future.

However, if the object of the proposed legislation currently before the Congress is to create a private preserve for a favorite class of users, as the King of England did for certain nobility in Sherwood Forest during Robin Hood's time, then it is not only our responsibility but our duty, to examine such a proposal very closely and very carefully.

As attorney general, I have taken a solemn oath to uphold the laws of this State and country, and to protect Nevada citizens and their inherent rights from unwarranted encroachment and intrusion.

In discussing the various wilderness proposals with my staff and attorneys general from other Western States, both Republicans and Democrats, two major legal concerns have risen. First, it is incumbent that we protect ourselves against the dog in the manager intrusion of Federal reserved water rights when considering wilderness proposals, especially in light of the most recent decision of a Colorado Federal District Court in a case called *Sierra Club* v. *Block*. This potential, unwarranted, and dangerous intrusion becomes a very real possibility.

Strictly legally speaking, the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill, S. 722, protects us against such an intrusion. The Seiberling-Reid bill does not.

Second, the concept of buffer zones, vista designations, and other such radical proposals, which can only have a devastating impact on the future growth and economic diversification of our great State, must be closely examined. Again, legally speaking, the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill protects Nevada from such radical concepts. The Seiberling-Reid bill, as it is currently written, does not.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. We are not going to pursue this course, we have too many witnesses.

The Honorable Richard Bryant was scheduled to appear now, however, he had a conflict and he will be in, in about an hour, I understand, so we will accommodate him when he arrives. Whatever panel we have, we will put him on next.

Panel 1 will come up next.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Panel 1, if you would come up, please, to the table: Senator Dean Rhoads; Assemblyman Louis Bergevin; Marian McClellan; Ben Colvin.

And on this panel, we would like to have Jim Spoo, the mayor of Sparks; and also the mayor of Reno, if we could, Pete Sferrazza.

Senator HECHT. Pete, we had you down on the list. We saw your name down there.

Mr. SFERRAZZA. Thank you, Senator.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel No. 2 can come up and take the front row seats. That's Dallas Byington, David Fulstone, Don Henderson, Eugene Gastanaga, Ron Conley, and Hal Curti.

Senator HECHT. We're going to begin. And, again, I want to remind you, please limit your remarks because I am going to have

to cut you off when that red light goes on, so watch that yellow light, that means you've got 1 minute to go.

OK, Dean.

STATEMENT OF DEAN A. RHOADS, NEVADA STATE SENATOR

Senator RHOADS. Yes, I'm Senator Dean Rhoads of Tuscarora, NV. This is a summary of a statement by the Nevada legislative committee on public lands.

Nevada Legislature's committee on public lands is a permanent statutory committee created by the legislature to review and comment on proposals and practices affecting Federal rural lands in Nevada. Since 1975, this committee had been very active throughout the State on public land matters.

The committee has held four meetings around the State since the legislature adjourned in June 1985 and visited Congressmen and administration officials in Washington, DC. The major issue has been wilderness. The committee has heard extensive testimony and has promoted active consideration of the wilderness issue in Nevada. The committee's view urges Congress to actively pursue a reasonable solution which adequately accounts for the unique nature of our State.

Nevada's Legislature adopted and the Governor signed Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1 to support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich proposal. The Nevada legislative commission on public lands reaffirmed this position at an earlier Elko meeting several month ago.

Realizing that other congressional proposals were introduced after Nevada Legislature adjourned, the committee recognizes the political realities of Congress, but believes they should be tempered by the economic and geographical realities in Nevada.

Due to the unique nature of the land in Nevada, the State is faced with continued withdrawals and further wilderness designations by Federal agencies. Also, Nevada rural communities are very, very dependent on the public lands for mining and ranching.

Any compromise efforts that may become necessary in Congress must take careful account of these unique characteristics and contributions in Nevada. Our committee pledges to participate and provide any assistance to achieve such a reasonable solution to the wilderness issue.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement submitted by the Nevada Legislature follows:]

STATEMENT BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE'S
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Reference S.B. 722--The Hecht-Laxalt Wilderness Bill--and other proposals in Congress to designate certain United States Forest Service lands in Nevada as wilderness.

February 13 and 14, 1986
Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS IS A PERMANENT STATUTORY COMMITTEE CREATED BY THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PROPOSALS AND PRACTICES AFFECTING PUBLIC LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS STATE. THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION AND HEARING OF PUBLIC LANDS MATTERS. IN THIS CAPACITY, THE COMMITTEE SERVES AS AN OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS NOT IN SESSION AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS HAS HELD FOUR MEETINGS AROUND THE STATE SINCE THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED IN JUNE 1985. THESE MEETINGS WERE HELD ON AUGUST 16, 1985, IN RENO; OCTOBER 7, 1985, IN ELKO; DECEMBER 16, 1985, IN LAS VEGAS; AND FEBRUARY 7, 1986, IN LAS VEGAS. DURING THESE MEETINGS, THE COMMITTEE HEARD EXTENSIVE TESTIMONY, CONDUCTED RESEARCH AND PROMOTED ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE IN NEVADA.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO VISITED WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM OCTOBER 16 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 1985. DURING THIS VISIT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS MET WITH NEVADA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND WITH 17 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OR THEIR STAFFS AND FOUR KEY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC LANDS MATTERS. THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA WAS A MAJOR ISSUE DISCUSSED AT THESE MEETINGS.

BASED ON ITS THOROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN THE WILDERNESS ISSUE, THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING VIEW CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LANDS AS WILDERNESS IN NEVADA.

THE COMMITTEE'S VIEW

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS RECOGNIZES THAT THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN THIS STATE MOST LIKELY WILL BE RESOLVED BY COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE DIVERGENT PROPOSALS FROM THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS. THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TAKES AN ACTIVE STAND TOWARD A REASONABLE COMPROMISE WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR STATE.

THE 1985 SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADOPTED ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 (FILE NO. 76) WITH ONLY FOUR DISSENTING VOTES OUT OF 63 MEMBERS. THIS RESOLUTION URGES THE CONGRESS TO ENACT SPECIFIC WILDERNESS LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE 136,900 ACRES IN FOUR AREAS OF UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN NEVADA AS WILDERNESS. THIS LEGISLATION IS REFLECTED IN S.B. 722 AND H.R. 1686, SPONSORED, RESPECTIVELY, BY SENATORS HECHT AND LAXALT AND BY REPRESENTATIVE VUCANOVICH. THIS RESOLUTION ALSO URGES CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE AS WILDERNESS THE 1,322,900 ACRES OF THE DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE WHICH HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

IN A PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION TO THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SERVE ON PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEES, THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS REAFFIRMED THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT OTHER PROPOSALS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED. HOWEVER, THESE OTHER PROPOSALS MAY NOT ADEQUATELY CONSIDER THE UNIQUE NATURE OF NEVADA.

NEVADA IS UNIQUE AMONG THE STATES BECAUSE ABOUT 86.5 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN THE STATE IS CONTROLLED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO, OVER 4 MILLION ACRES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE MILITARY AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES FROM USE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. NEVADA FACES CONTINUED WITHDRAWALS OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND FURTHER WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS OF LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE, NEVADA IS VULNERABLE TO LAND USE DECISIONS MADE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES RATHER THAN THE PEOPLE OR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE STATE.

NEVADA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES ALSO ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS FOR MINING AND RANCHING. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF MINES, NEVADA HAS POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 17 STRATEGIC OR CRITICAL MINERAL COMMODITIES; AND MANY OF THE WILDERNESS AREAS PROPOSED IN CONGRESS HAVE POTENTIAL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THESE STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS. THE LOSS OF AREAS WITH POTENTIAL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MINERALS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THIS STATE AND TO THE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF OUR NATION.

THE EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE BY THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE INDICATES THAT COMPROMISE EFFORTS IN CONGRESS MUST TAKE CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF THESE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEVADA.

CONCLUSION

THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS AS AN APPROPRIATE SPECIFIC USE OF SOME OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA. THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOGNIZES THE POLITICAL REALITIES THAT EXIST IN CONGRESS CONCERNING THE WILDERNESS ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE POLITICAL REALITIES MUST BE TEMPERED BY THE ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES THAT EXIST IN THE STATE OF NEVADA.

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, THEREFORE, URGES CONGRESS TO WORK ACTIVELY DURING THIS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA WHICH ADEQUATELY ACCOUNTS FOR THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR STATE. THIS COMMITTEE ALSO PLEDGES ITS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY CAPACITY AND TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE IN EFFORTS BY THE APPROPRIATE MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE SUCH A COMPROMISE.

ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE AND THE CITIZENS WHO WE REPRESENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU AND COMMEND YOU FOR BRINGING THESE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TO NEVADA AND FOR PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS.

WITH BEST WISHES AND REGARDS,

SENATOR DEAN A. RHOADS, CHAIRMAN
ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID D. NICHOLAS, VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR JAMES H. BILBRAY
ASSEMBLYMAN VIRGIL M. GETTO
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN W. MARVEL
SENATOR JOHN M. VERGIELS
CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAREN W. HAYES

Senator HECHT. Brian.

STATEMENT OF BRIAN DAVIE, SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST, NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

Mr. DAVIE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Brian Davie and I am a senior research analyst with the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau. I am here today at the request of Nevada State Assemblyman Louis Bergevin to read into the record Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1 from the 1985 session of the Nevada Legislature:

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Nevada have a tremendous respect for its lands and strongly support the wise use and conservation of its natural resources; and

Whereas, nearly 87 percent of the land in this State, including over 4 million acres which have been withdrawn from use by the general public, is controlled by various agencies of the Federal Government and, therefore, the State is particularly vulnerable to decisions regarding the use of land which are made by Federal agencies and not the people or elected officers of the State; and

Whereas, the economic well-being of this State, particularly some of its more rural communities, is heavily dependent on access to, and use of, the Federal public lands for mining and ranching; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States now is reviewing proposed legislation which would designate as wilderness approximately 136,900 acres in this State, including portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak, and additions to the existing Jarbidge wilderness area; and

Whereas, in addition to these areas, there is general support in this State for the designation of an additional 1,322,900 acres as wilderness in the Desert National Wildlife Range; and

Whereas, there has been a considerable amount of public discussion in Nevada regarding designations of wilderness areas and there is a general consensus supporting the designation of those areas as wilderness; and

Whereas, the committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature is a permanent entity of the legislature and is empowered to review and comment on proposals affecting public lands under the control of the Federal Government, and in this respect, the committee serves as an official liaison between the Nevada legislature when the legislature is not in session and the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, jointly, That this legislature urges the Congress of the United States to designate as wilderness portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak, and the Jarbidge area, as identified in Federal legislation now pending in Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States is urged to designate as wilderness those portions of the Desert National Wildlife Range which have been recommended for designation as wilderness by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States is urged to keep the committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature informed of additional discussions regarding potential designations of wilderness in the State of Nevada.

And the remainder of this resolution designates who this resolution shall be sent to.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. You got it all out in 3 minutes.

Commissioner.

STATEMENT OF MARIAN McCLELLAN, PERSHING COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Yes, Marian McClellan from Pershing County.

Are you really listening to all this testimony, and can you hear us?

Our people in Pershing County have been working since 1978 in every way we know how to tell you we don't want any part of any wilderness in Pershing County.

Why do we feel this way? There's one big reason to begin with: That is because nothing has ever been offered that is better than multiple use that worked on everyone's behalf perfectly since Nevada became a State.

We have been deceived time and time again. A petition containing over 40 percent of our county population was regarded as one dissenting opinion. Guidelines set forth by agencies were not followed by the agencies themselves. Time after time, testimony has been taken and submitted in Pershing County. Yet, when the Department of the Interior published their EIS on wilderness for BLM, the public support was stated to be unknown.

As I said in the beginning, our work has been ongoing since 1978. Today in 1986, we truly wonder is anyone listening and can you hear us.

Let me offer you some facts. Pershing County has 3,859,840 acres, roughly the size of Rhode Island. Only 364,124 acres are in private hands. We have 46 mining districts; 52 percent of every dollar spent in Pershing County is derived from mining.

In 1976, according to Federal mandate, the citizens of Pershing County developed a land use plan. In this plan, every inch of Pershing County was considered and it was the wish of the people that this land be held in multiple use.

Thank you very much, Senator, for allowing the people of Nevada this chance to speak one more time. I hope you were listening.

[Material submitted by Ms. McClellan follows:]

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PERSHING COUNTY
P. O. BOX 820
LOVELOCK, NEVADA 89419

November 16, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District
Advisory Council

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of Pershing County, we wish by this letter to establish a record with regard to the handling of the Winnemucca District Draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. By this letter, we wish to establish that the Bureau of Land Management has failed and/or refused to comply with the federal laws and regulations pertaining to the procedure for developing the Impact Statement.

We have been assured, throughout this entire process, that this entire Statement would be a cooperative matter taking into consideration local planning as well as local input. Regarding the first, the failure to consider local planning, it must be pointed out that in April 1976, Pershing County, under requirements of state law, as mandated by federal law, adopted a General Plan for Pershing County which involved large citizen groups for input. On the basis of that General Plan, a Land Use Ordinance was passed by the Pershing County Commissioners in April 1976. That General Plan and Ordinance provides that the vast majority of the land in Pershing County, including public lands, be open and used by right for purposes of agriculture-grazing and mining. Also, the hunting interests were to be allowed as a part of multiple use on those lands.

The Pershing County Commissioners have consistently carried out a policy for multiple use including taking necessary law enforcement and legal action to keep the many wilderness areas open to the general public.

It should be further pointed out that the economy of Pershing County is mainly committed to the agricultural and mining interests and that the attraction of hunters into Pershing County is an important economic factor to Pershing County. With the proposed Environmental Impact Statement, these economic factors will be endangered and curtailed.

The Pershing County Commissioners have continuously given input in various forms to the Bureau of Land Management with regard to their feelings in this matter, however, there is nothing which is shown in the Statement reflecting that input.

It is most disappointing to find that most of the areas referred to, in the Statement, when it reflects public support to the Pershing County area, specifies that area as unknown. That representation is, in fact, false in that we have personal knowledge that petitions by large numbers of Pershing County citizens have been filed with the Bureau of Land Management against creating these wilderness areas as designated and that the Pershing County Commissioners, representing the general public and views of the community, are not reflected in the Statement.

It should be further pointed out that although Pershing County consists of approximately one-half of the land mass included in the Winnemucca District, no public hearings with regard to this Statement were held in Pershing County, while at the same time, hearings were held in Reno, Winnemucca and Gerlach. Gerlach is a small community located in Washoe County and is a very small part in the entire District in comparison to Pershing County.

We wish this letter to serve as notice upon all individuals and agencies connected with this matter that the Pershing County Commissioners deem the Statement to be inaccurate and untrue with regard to those areas in Pershing County and we hereby request that no wilderness areas be designated within Pershing County. We also wish, by this notice, to put all agencies on legal notice that appropriate legal remedies may be pursued by Pershing County as a result of the disregard of the federal laws and regulations in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Maher

Robert N. Maher
Pershing County Commissioners

RNM/lc

November 7, 1979

Bureau of Land Management
Attention: State Director
C/O Winnemucca District
705 East Fourth Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

TO WHOMEVER MAY CONCERN:

On behalf of the Pershing County Commissioners please be advised in regard to the Winnemucca District Draft Environmental Impact Statement, that the Statement is totally inaccurate with regard to input from Pershing County, Nevada. Various petitions from a large part of the citizens of Pershing County on various issues have been furnished to you and the County Commissioners, representing the people of Pershing County, Nevada, have written many letters with regard to the input of the Statement. All of this input has been totally disregarded and we wish by this letter to document violations of your own guidelines.

If corrective action is not taken regarding the Statement we are reserving the right to bring proper legal or administrative sanctions as we deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

James F. Burke
Chairman

JFB/ca

RESOLUTION OF PERSHING COUNTY, NEVADA

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THAT, WHEREAS, Congress has, in the past, ordered that a wilderness study be carried out under the Department of the Bureau of Land Management, and

WHEREAS, the Pershing County Commissioners have determined that designation of wilderness within Pershing County would create a hardship and be detrimental to the citizens of Pershing County, Nevada, and

WHEREAS, the Pershing County Commissioners have consistently, on behalf of the citizens of Pershing County, resisted efforts to designate wilderness areas and, in spite of such efforts, there are various plans presently being presented to Congress concerning wilderness designation in Nevada, and

WHEREAS, the Pershing County Commissioners have determined that House Resolution 1686, known as the Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985, has been introduced in Congress, and

WHEREAS, the Pershing County Commissioners have determined that of all of the plans presently in Congress, House Resolution 1686 will result in the least damage to the citizens of Pershing County, Nevada;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Pershing County Commissioners hereby desires Congress, and their various committees presently studying these proposals, to adopt House Resolution 1686, known as the Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985 and reject any and all other plans in conflict therewith.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23 day of SEPT., A.D. 1985.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

PERSHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Robert N. Maher

ROBERT N. MAHER, Chairman

ATTEST:

Donna Gillen

CLERK

R E S O L U T I O N

THAT, WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for Surface Management of Public Lands under the U. S. Mining Laws 43 CFR 3809, has been presented to the public for its comments; and

WHEREAS, particularly on Page 38 of the said Draft there are indications that should the proposed actions as indicated in the said Draft be taken, it would result in mineral production hindrance, particularly upon small mining operators, and that this would, in turn, delay discovery of new mineral deposits and make any marginal mineral discoveries unprofitable to operate; and

WHEREAS, the proposed actions would hinder small operations because they would have reclamation standards which could cause economic problems; and

WHEREAS, there are also indications, on the said Page 38 of said Draft, that there may be minor economic impacts on communities located in highly mineralized areas where mineral production from public lands represents a significant part of the total economy; and

WHEREAS, it is felt by the County Commissioners of Pershing County, Nevada, that Pershing County may be such an area which could have serious economic impact if small mining operations are curtailed; and

WHEREAS, the Pershing County Commissioners feel that it is contrary to the best interest of the United States of America and particularly to Pershing County, Nevada, that such impacts occur,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Pershing County Commissioners are opposed to any such actions which could harm the economic and mineral

situations of the United States of America and the economic and mineral situations of Pershing County, Nevada, and, therefore, oppose any and all restrictions presently being proposed by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, which could bring such results.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5 day of May, A. D. 1980, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Marvin Killfoil, Mr. James F. Burke and Mr. Robert Souza

Noes:

Absent:

BOARD OF PERSHING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
MARVIN J. KILLFOIL, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____ CLERK

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Commissioner.
Ben.

STATEMENT OF BEN COLVIN, ESMERALDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. COLVIN. My name is Ben Colvin. I'm a rancher and member of the Esmeralda Board of County Commissioners.

The Nevada wilderness bills which have been introduced in the Senate and House over the past several months will designate only about 9,000 acres of Forest Service lands as wilderness in Esmeralda County. The direct impact of this designation on my county will probably not be that great since it is fairly small and, according to geologists, has a low mineral potential.

BLM areas presently under consideration here could, however, have a significant effect on the future economic well-being of our county. Recognizing that, our board of commissioners passed a resolution in May 1984 opposing any BLM wilderness designation for this county. We in Esmeralda County are very alarmed at what appears to be a well-organized campaign by environmentalists to lock up as much lands in rural Nevada as possible. These Forest Service areas we are now considering seem to be just the start.

My purpose in being here is to express to you on behelf of my board, how vitally important the concept of mutliple use of our public land is to rural counties such as Esmeralda. We know from experience that in order to ensure our continued economic survival, we must take the maximum use of our natural resources by encouraging such activity as farming, ranching, and mining. We look upon any action which would tend to diminish the opportunities for expansion in these activities with a great deal of apprehension. We do not believe that any possible local income derived from wilderness related tourism can even begin to make up for potential loss in economic benefits to the county as a result of future opportunities foregone in mining and ranching.

In considering areas for wilderness designation, we ask that you pay particular attention to the needs of we rural Nevadans. Nevada is unique among other Western States in the dependence of its rural counties' fragile economies on public land access. We strongly urge you to oppose any bill containing any excessive wilderness areas.

I personally feel that the bill that Chic Hecht and Paul Laxalt introduced last March with 137,000 acres was a sound and conservative bill and meets the needs of all Nevadans.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.
Mayor.

STATEMENT OF PETE SFERRAZZA, MAYOR, RENO, NV

Mr. SFERRAZZA. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am here to urge you to reconsider your bill. It is a radical bill that will open up in excess of 3.4 million acres of wilderness to development. But the issue today should not only be how many acres of wilderness are worth preserving, we can always compromise on

the boundaries; the issue should be what areas are worth preserving?

Is Mount Rose worth preserving? Is Wheeler Peak worth preserving? Are the Ruby Mountains worth preserving? Is Arc Dome worth preserving?

I support preserving these areas and I believe a majority of Nevadans would say the same thing. But if you have any doubt, put it on the ballot and ask the voters. We have a choice to make. We can pave over the Truckee Meadows and turn it into a smog bowl like LA, we can turn our mountains into open pit mines, or we can fight to preserve our open spaces.

I have a resolution to present, a resolution that was passed unanimously by a body that's not noted for its unanimity, the Reno City Council. This resolution reads:

Whereas, Mount Rose is an integral part of Reno's character, it is 12 miles from the city limits, the Carson Range, of which it is a part, forms the national southwest boundary of Reno. It is a major watershed for the area, providing snow-fed mountain streams that bring water to Reno through the long, dry Nevada summers. It makes a beautiful backdrop of extensive pine forest and snow-covered peaks for our community.

Whereas, Mount Rose retains a surprisingly wide diversity of natural opportunities, hiking trails, trout fishing streams, deer and bird hunting, dense pine forests, deep snow in winter for sports, and an excellent opportunity for solitude; and

Whereas Reno is one of the nation's fastest growing urban areas, the need to preserve Mount Rose is crucial to maintaining our community character, protecting our valuable water resources, enhancing our city's image, preserving unlimited natural recreational opportunities, and ensuring future citizens the same precious natural heritage that we received.

Now, therefore, the City Council of the City of Reno do resolve to endorse the consideration of Mount Rose-Carson Range area as a wilderness area, specifically excluding private lands and all public and private lands included in the MPR for Galena Resort as approved by Washoe County.

And I offer this on behalf of the city of Reno, and I would urge you to save the mountains.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. No applause from either side, please.

STATEMENT OF JIM SPOO, MAYOR, SPARKS, NV

Mr. SPOO. Thank you, Senator. I want to make it clear that I speak for myself and do not pretend to know what may be better for others, particularly those in the rural areas of Nevada.

My family's history in the ranching industry makes me particularly mindful of some of those concerns, I might add. And I would add further that mining is a friend of Nevada. I have no doubt about that and I support its expansion. But we need not entrust a veto over our public lands to a few out-of-state mining companies, if that becomes a choice. I believe that wilderness areas will give pause to Pentagon planners who see Nevada as a missile race track, a target range, or simply a waste dump.

I speak as one who is interested in a long-term economic health and quality of life in our State. I'm not willing to be dominated by Government or industry, but by the informed choices of our citizens. More importantly, this principle emphasizes our most pervasive problem in Nevada, which is our image.

To Nevadans, our image is great, but to others, it simply is not and it will never be better as long as we roll over for narrow, private, or public interests. I can't tell you the right amount of wilderness acreage. I don't know and it isn't my prerogative to choose, furthermore. Significantly less acreage than the original Reid bill, however, in my opinion, is no wilderness bill at all and is merely a challenge to the Congress to sneer at us. On the other hand, dramatically more acreage is overreaching by the Federal Government into a State already encumbered by Federal intervention.

I note with interest that Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich, whose positions on this bill I respect, do not contend that 137,000 acres is the final figure. You simply wish to keep that final figure lower. I believe that our congressional delegation will work together on this bill eventually, or we shall all suffer. Let's protect all of our citizens in this State from those on either extreme who would toy with our lands and our livelihoods.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Mayor. We're not going to question you because of the long witness list, but I will mention this to the audience: You can see that these panels were organized to alternate viewpoints—and this will happen all day long, one will be on one side and one will be on the other side, but everyone who asked to testify and put in their application to testify will be heard today.

Thank you very much.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Next panel is Dallas Byington, David Fulstone, Don Henderson, Eugene Castanaga, Ron Conley, Hal Curti.

Panel No. 3 should come up and sit in the front row seats: Allan Young, Ed Hollingsworth, Marsha Berkbigler, Mike Minette, Tom Norris, and Ed Rugg.

Dallas, are you ready?

Mr. BYINGTON. Yes, sir.

STATEMENT OF DALLAS BYINGTON, PRESIDENT, NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. BYINGTON. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Dallas Byington. I am president of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, representing some 400 cattle producers in the State of Nevada.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association has adopted the stance that there is a need for wilderness areas. But the association also feels that there is already enough wilderness areas established within the State of Nevada, and any other areas would not meet the requirements to qualify as wilderness areas.

The association is concerned about the management of wilderness areas in regards to the grazing of livestock in those areas designated as wilderness. Although public law established by Congress allows for grazing within the wilderness areas, the rules and regulations that govern the wilderness areas are written by Government employees within the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. These rules and regulations sometimes run counter to the intent of Congress and are so restrictive that they discourage the permittees from exercising their permits.

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The removal of the livestocks from wilderness areas will have a devastating financial impact upon the livestock operators within those wilderness areas. The economic losses experienced by those livestock operators will have a trickle-down effect, not only on the local communities, but also upon the economic well-being of the State of Nevada, because livestock industry is the third largest industry in the State of Nevada.

The acreage that has been proposed in Senate bill 772, although small, is only a portion of the State that has been designated as potential wilderness areas. The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of selecting some 3.5 million acres suitable, by their standards, for wilderness. The Department of Wildlife has also selected 1.5 million acres within the State as suitable for wilderness.

The Cattlemen's Association has enough political acumen to realize that there will be wilderness areas designated within the State, whether we like it or not. We, therefore, offer the minimum amount that has been proposed and endorse Senate bill 772.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Dave.

STATEMENT OF DAVID FULSTONE, PRESIDENT, NEVADA FARM BUREAU

Mr. FULSTONE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Dave Fulstone, president of the Nevada Farm Bureau. I represent 3,500 families in the State of Nevada involved in agriculture.

I appreciate your bringing the hearings to the State of Nevada for everyone here to be able to hear what's going on and have their input, and that's in deference to Congressman Seiberling's 4-day joyride in helicopters, which I was very disappointed in.

Our concern is not just for ourselves but for the entire State, and the way the wilderness designation would cripple the mining industry, and even tourism in this most visited of all States. Part of Nevada's lure is our easy access to the wide open spaces, including our famed hunting areas, accessibility that would be sharply curtailed in our most desirable areas. We believe that the wilderness advocates would like nothing better than to tie up these lands for their own private sanctuaries.

I take exceptions to what Congressman Harry Reid said. He said ranchers were pushed by outside forces into mass hysteria. That's not true. We work for 3½ million farmers and ranchers across this Nation, and we know of the experience they've had in other States. We have farmers and ranchers that are out of business in Montana and Colorado and Idaho because of wilderness areas. They say you can graze in there but you can't do it economically.

Senator HECHT. Talk into the mike, please.

Mr. FULSTONE. He said his bill is 0.6 percent of the State of Nevada, but I remind you that it's 20 percent of the forest land in this State.

He said the myths will not come true, those myths being minimized, water rights grazers going out of business and access. Every one of those has come into being in other States. We have the ability to see what's happened in wilderness areas in the other States.

In Colorado right now, there exists the situation with the Kane decision. Senator Wallop and Senator Armstrong have vowed not to let any other wilderness legislation pass until that's cleared up.

Also Mayor Sferrazza alluded that if we don't have a wilderness area, we're going to have open pit mines. That's not true. I think it's a slap in the face to the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to say that they've managed the lands poorly for the last more than hundred years—or 75 years, and we're not being fair to those people. We have good management practices. There are laws in effect that keep us from really degrading these properties.

In conclusion, I know there's going to be some wilderness. I really appreciate your taking the initiative to introduce a bill that gives everyone what they want. People who want some wilderness, it gives them some wilderness and it also gives us the opportunity in this great Nation to have the multiple use concept rather than a no use concept, which has not worked.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fulstone follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU
TO THE PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER & RESOURCE
CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Presented by David Fulstone
President, Nevada Farm Bureau

February 13, 1986

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I am David Fulstone, President of Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada's largest organization of farmers and ranchers. Nearly all Forest Service and BLM permittees in Nevada are members of Farm Bureau. All of our members have a great interest in the wilderness concept, both as families who live and work on the land as well as feepaying users of the public lands who produce food in the form of beef, lamb, wool, and other livestock products.

Agriculture is a 250 million dollar industry in Nevada and over 50 percent of that is the range livestock business. Both the social and economic base of most of our rural communities is agriculture. The very existence of many of these small communities rely almost totally on the livestock industry.

Farm Bureau is opposed to any new wilderness designation in Nevada. However, we do realize that there will be some additional lands designated. After reviewing the three bills introduced, we believe that the only one acceptable is the bill introduced by Senators Laxalt and Hecht (S722).

In my estimation the Laxalt-Hecht bill is supported by the majority of Nevadans. It is supported by Farm Bureau, cattlemen, wool growers, the state organization of county commissioners and many local chambers of commerce as well as the Mining Association and many other user groups.

I was really pleased when I first heard that Chairman Seiberling would conduct a congressional tour of the proposed areas within Nevada and allow for participation and input by all concerned. However, when the tour became a reality, I was greatly disappointed. We received a schedule of a tour secondhand less than two days prior to the tour. No one representing agriculture was allowed to participate in the tour, and it appeared to be heavily loaded with representatives of pro-wilderness groups. Even the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture was excluded. Many of us in Nevada believe that the tour was just a very expensive joyride and that Congressman Seiberling fully intended to introduce a maximum bill with or withour the tour. We also question whether a

four-day helicopter tour can give anyone a realistic impression of the affects this type of legislation can impose on the citizens of Nevada. It appears to me that the Seiberling bill is just a ploy to make the Reid bill look like a compromise.

Our concern is not just for ourselves but for the entire state, in the way that wilderness designation would cripple the mining industry and even tourism in this most visited of all states. Part of Nevada's lure is our easy access to the wild open spaces, including our famed hunting areas . . . accessibility that would be sharply curtailed in our most desirable areas. We believe that the wilderness advocates would like nothing better than to tie up these lands for their own private sanctuaries.

Mr. Chairman, repeated discussions with some advocates of wilderness designation in Nevada have convinced me that these people honestly intend that the grazing of livestock continue within the wilderness area, as provided by law. It is also apparent that some wilderness advocates honestly believe such desination will not impair grazing in a wilderness area. However, we contend that economically feasible grazing can continue in these areas only if explicit policies governing grazing management are provided.

The Laxalt-Hecht bill addresses the concerns of all Nevadans. While allowing some of Nevada's most pristine areas the protection of wilderness designation, it also affords full protection for the people directly and indirectly affected by such legislation. Specifically, Laxalt-Hecht bill contains language providing adequate protection for grazing allotments including use of motorized equipment. The Senate bill also addresses state water authority, air quality, the Clean Air Act, mineral resources, and watershed protection much more adequately than do either the Seiberling bill or the Reid bill. Another very important aspect of the Senate bill is the predator control authority.

While we have serious reservations about limited use desination of public lands, the Nevada Farm Bureau supports passage of S722 with the recommendation that language be added to specifically allow control of noxious weeds, fire control, trail maintenance and the use of other proven resource management tools which are essential to the maintenance of the quality of life outside the wilderness area. We emphasize this point, Mr. Chairman, because so much of Nevada's water supply, for example, originates on public land and much of it within proposed wilderness areas.

Recently we have had even greater fear brought

about by the recent Kane decision in Colorado. This decision is so dangerous to that state's water rights that Senators Wallop (WY) and Armstrong (CO) have pledged that no further wilderness will be approved until this threat is removed.

There is now more than 90 million acres of wilderness area in the U.S. I think it is going a little to far to lock up 20% of our National Forest land in Nevada. I think it is a question of common sense. We all know that with the current laws and regulations within USDA and the Forest Service these lands cannot be developed or substantially changed. It's a slap in the face to the Forest Service to say that they are not and cannot manage these lands properly so we should lock them up.

In conclusion, Farm Bureau is interested in wilderness legislation because many of our members use public lands for livestock grazing. Like other citizens, our members also benefit from the recreation, timber, firewood cutting, and minerals provided by our public lands. We beleive that the miltiple use concept has proven to be a sound management principle. We have seen instances where the "no management" concept which accompanies wilderness designation has actually resulted in degradation of our public lands and our resources. I would like to remind the Senators that we in

agriculture love the land and that we have taken the greatest pains to be good stewards of the land while at the same time contributing significantly to the low cost American food supplies which are the envy of the world. We believe that the Reid-Seibeling bills are an insulting way to reward our contributions to the strength of our great state and nation. For those reasons, Farm Bureau opposes designation of our public lands. At the same time, we realize that wilderness legislation will probably be enacted by Congress. In that case, Farm Bureau supports the Laxalt-Hecht bill.

####################END####################

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Dave.
Gene.

STATEMENT OF EUGENE T. GASTANAGA, RENO, NV

Mr. GASTANAGA. Senator Hecht, Representative Vucanovich, my name is Eugene T. Gastanaga, a native of Nevada.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER. Pardon me, Senator. the loud speaker system is not working.

Mr. BEVINETTO. We're trying to get it fixed.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. We're working on it. The court reporter can hear, can't she? Unfortunately, we have to continue while the repairs are being made.

Mr. GASTANAGA. I'll begin again.

Senator HECHT. Yes, sure.

Mr. GASTANAGA. My name is Eugene T. Gastanaga, I'm a native Nevadan, a first generation of Basque descent.

My father arrived in this country as a Basque immigrant in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. I am adamantly opposed to any wilderness area in the Santa Rosa Range in Humboldt County, NV.

The Gastanaga family has 640 acres with improvements on land adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service land in the Santa Rosa Basin. This land was homesteaded by the Bradshaw family over a hundred years ago. My father purchased the land in 1921 from Fred Stewart, Paradise rancher. The copy of the deed furnished in the package that I have presented you described the property as 680 acres. My father knew, and he passed it along to us, that there were 40 acres that belonged to the U.S. Forest Service. This 40 acres have lain there very serene for over a hundred years.

A few years ago, Jose Gastanaga, my nephew, and I were called in by a new supervisor of the U.S. Forest Service in Winnemucca, NV. He threatened to take the 40 acres. We attempted to purchase comparable property in the State of Nevada for a swap. We were unsuccessful. His harassment stopped, but without written notice, this young fellow commenced to building a new fence and tore down the old fence and took the 40 acres.

This new fence was built along some heavy terrain. It must have cost a minimum of $5,000, perhaps $10,000. We, the taxpayers, paid for this unnecessary expense. And what return will the Government get from this property? Have a rental perhaps of two cows every year. And we wonder why we're going into debt.

If this should happen to go to a wilderness area, then the next thing could happen is the U.S. Forest Service could persuade the BLM to cut off our only access to the property, then we'd have to resort to use of the helicopter, but that won't happen in my time. Then the special interest groups will scream that we are disturbing the wilderness area by the noise of this helicopter, and the harassments can just keep on going.

But in closing, my thoughts are that the wilderness area will be a typical example of added bureaucracy in our Government. I think we have enough bureaucrats now.

Thank you for listening.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gastanaga follows:]

February 13, 1986

My name is Eugene T. Gastanaga, and I reside at 1790 Webster Way, Reno, Nevada. My wife, Ellen, and I have two daughters and four grandchildren. I am a native Nevadan and an avid fisherman.

My current business relationships are as follows: slot machine route, hotel and casino operations, with a small interest in ~~tew~~ casinos. All my business holdings are in Nevada. Nevada is our home, our lives. My father arrived in Nevada in the 19th century to settle in Paradise Valley, become a citizen, develop a number of business interests, and raise a family.

The purpose of this letter is to state my adamant opposition to the creation of a wilderness area in the Santa Rosa Range in Humboldt County, Nevada, above Paradise Valley. The creation of this area could spell serious adverse consequences for one of our properties adjoining the U.S. Forest Service land in question in the Santa Rosa basin.

The piece of our property with which we are concerned here consists of eighteen sections (680 acres) homesteaded by various members of the Bradshaw families in the 1800's. This land was sold to Mr. F. B. Stewart in the early 1900's. My father, Jose V. Gastanaga, known to us as Grampa Gastanaga, purchased the property from Mr. Stewart on the 16th day of July, 1921, as per the attached copy of deed, witnessed by notory public.

An intersting side light of the sale is the difference in the recorded price and the actual amount paid to Stewart. Checks from Grampa to Stewart add up to $7,200, including $420 in interest, while the recorded price is $2,500. Copies of these checks are also attached. The checks are endorsed "pay to order of First National Bank, Winnemucca, Nevada, F. B. Stewart." Thank the Lord Grampa utilized the money on property instead of letting it waste away through bank failures.

Grampa was aware of the actual amount of land he purchased and advises us, his sons, that the property consisted of 17-40's, or 640 acres, rather than the 680 acres shown on the deed.

Grampa used this property to run one of his bands of sheep during the summer months, supplementing his Taylor Grazing Rights. In the 1930's, he disposed of his sheep and entered the cattle business, again using the property for summer cattle grazing.

In 1941, Grampa sold his ranch, Taylor Grazing Rights, cattle and water rights. He didn't have much choice - two boys in the service and one boy owning his own business. However, we did pursuade Grampa to keep the subject property plus the porperties in the valley floor, known as the Orchard and the Bigelow Field.

Commencing in 1941, Grampa rented these properties to Paradise Valley rancher Lew Miller until Grampa's death in 1965. At this time, the surviving children, S. J. Gastanaga, Louise Baker and I agreed to permit our nephew Jose J. Gastanaga, to share a quarter interest in the properties as a gift. Upon the death of S. J. Gastanaga, Louise acquired 60% of his interest and I acquired 40%, as per his will. Jose and I subsequently purchased Louise's share in the properties. In later years, I gifted my extra ownership to Jose so that he and I would have equal ownership in what we now call the 7XL Ranch. The 7XL Ranch includes all three of the above-mentioned properties.

In 1963, with Grampa's permission, we commenced to improve the subject property by building a five bedroom home, smaller home for the hired help, generating plant and housing, cellar, barn and corral, pump house and well.

In 1966 we proceeded to lease the property to Paradise Valley ranchers, and two years we ran our own cattle. One year we let the environment rest and go to seed, and in subsequent years we have reduced the number of cattle grazed on the property in order to maintain a balance with nature.

About 1975, the U.S. Forest Supervisor stationed in Winnemucca, Nevada, without a written notice, proceeded to tear down a fence bordering the subject area which has stood for decades and build a new fence without the 40 acres they claimed belonged to the Forest Service. Thankfully, he was kind enough to build a gate so that we still have access to the 40 acres which served as a favorite picnic area and fishing grounds for us for all those years. We had hired a man to search for and purchase a forty-acre section to trade for the 40 acres in question, as this was one of my wife's very favorite areas in all our holdings. However, this hired man proved to be dishonest, and the section was taken before we could take further measure.

The taking of this property by the Forest Service happened after the property rested happily as fenced for over a hundred years. In order to recoup the cost of this very expensive fence the taxpayers so unknowingly paid for, literally hundreds or thousands of years will have to pass before the grazing of two or three head of cattle will recompense the expense.

There are many arguments for designating various areas of the nation as "Wilderness" areas. However, the designation of this particular area of Forest Service land surrounding and/or bordering our property could cause extreme hardship on a native Nevada family who has for nearly 100 years lived peacefully on and with the land and the environment. We hold our land and our rights to use it wisely as sacred, as a priviledge given us by our free country.

We have not abused, nor shall we abuse our property, the surrounding properties, or the Nevada environment in general. We have long ago forbidden hunting on our property to allow the animals to propogate once again, as they were once nearly obliterated from our fields. We allow no illegal use of the fishing streams passing through our land. We are sensible, and sensitive people.

However, should the land surrounding or bordering us be declared a "Wilderness" area, we could be harrassed by "special-interest" groups and by others who would consider us intruders, where we are not. We have been where we are for many years; and we wish to have this generation and future generations have full use of our land - wise and sensitive use - without interruption or interference.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

E. T. Gastanaga

Eugene T. Gastanaga
1790 Webster Way
Reno, NV 89509

DEED.

THIS INDENTURE, made this 16th day of July, A. D 1921, by and between F. B. Stewart, of Paradise Valley, Nevada, the party of the first part and Joe. Gastanaga of the same place the party of the second part:

WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part , for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Five Hundred Dolars, gold coin of the United States to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said party of the second part , all the following described pieces or parcels of land situated, lying and being, in Humboldt County, State of Nevada, and more particularly described as follows to wit::

The North West one quarter(N.W. I/4) and the South west one quarter(S.W. I/4), and the South east one quarter,(S.E. I/4) and the South West quarter of the North East one quarter (S. W. I/4 of the N.E. I/4) of Section Thirty one (31): the South one half(S. I/2) of South West one quarter(S.W. I/4), the North West one quarter(N.W. I/4) of the South West one quarter (S. W. I/4) the South West quarter of the South East quarter (S. W. I/4) of the(S. E. I/4) of Section Thirty two (32) , all in Township Forty three (43) North, Range Thirty nine (39) East. being the land formerly known as the John Bradshaw field in the basin of Big Cotton wood creek in Paradise Valley, Nevada , containing six hundred and eighty (680) acres, more or less.

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the rents, issues, and profits thereof.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the above-mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the party of the first part has hereunto set his hand the day and year first above written.

F B. Stewart

(9) (6)

First Nat'l Bank of Ada
Dec 20-1921 40
4 1
55 19
Deed

D. G. Sherman

State of Nevada, } ss.
County of Humboldt }

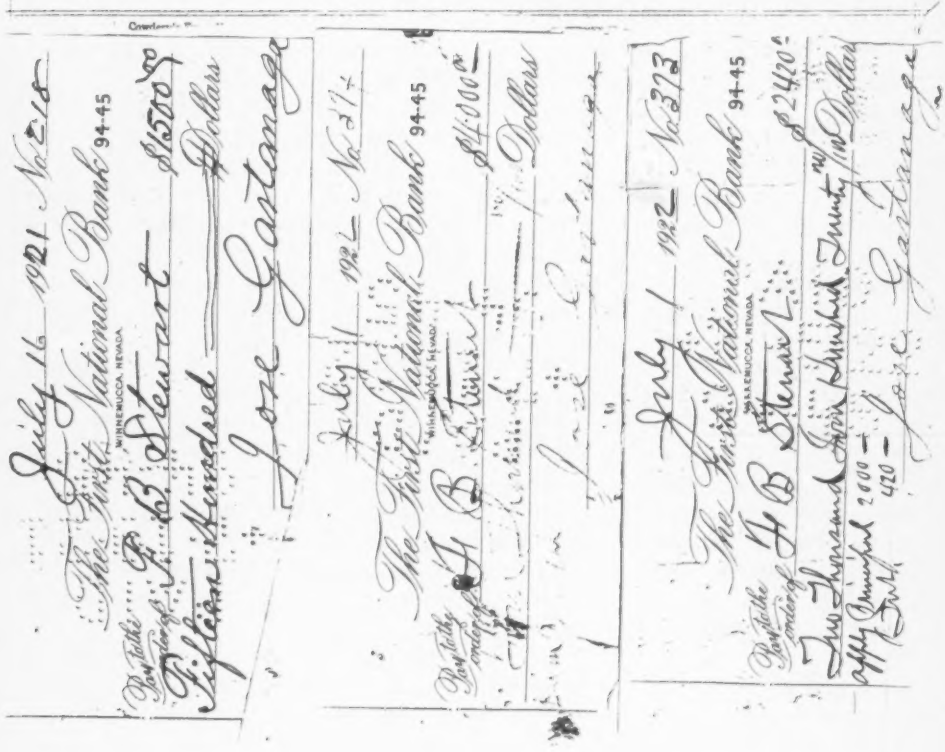
On this 16th day of July A. D. one thousand nine hundred and twentyone personally appeared before me, JOHN S. CASE a Notary Public in and for the said County of Humboldt

F. B. STEWART

known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged to me that he executed the same, freely and voluntarily, and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal at my office in the County of Humboldt, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

John S Case
Notary Public in and for the County of Humboldt State of Nevada.


July 16 1921 No 218
The First National Bank 94-45
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA
Pay to the order of F B Stewart $1500.00
Fifteen Hundred Dollars
For Loz Cattle
Loz Cantonaga

July 1 1921 No 317
The First National Bank 94-45
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA
Pay to the order of F B Stewart $4100.00
Four Thousand One Hundred Dollars
For Loz Cattle
Loz Cantonaga

July 1 1921 No 373
The First National Bank 94-45
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA
Pay to the order of F B Stewart $2420.00
Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Dollars
For Loz Cattle
Loz Cantonaga

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Don.

STATEMENT OF DON HENDERSON, RESEARCH PLANNER, RESOURCE CONCEPTS

Mr. HENDERSON. I'm Don Henderson, a research planner with Resource Concepts. These comments and the written testimony are presented on behalf of the Nevada N4 and N6 State.

Proponents for an extensive wilderness have argued that since Nevada has limited designated wilderness, there is an urgent need to increase wilderness to make Nevada more comparable with other western States. What these groups fail to recognize is there are millions of acres in Nevada already dedicated by the Federal Government to a single or limited miltiple use.

As illustrated in the map behind me, nearly 8 percent of Nevada has been withdrawn by the Federal Government for its specific uses. These include military reservations, nuclear research, reclamation projects, tribal lands, and wildlife preserves.

This observation poses this question: With 5.6 million acres already managed for restricted multiple use in Nevada, is there a need to withdraw additional public lands for multiple-use management for the purposes of preservation?

One can observe that the national forest lands in Nevada have been well managed in the past, but it would not have been considered for wilderness. This is a strong statement for a continued multiple-use management on national forest lands.

Under current congressional mandates, resource agencies have sufficient authority, power, and tools to manage public range lands for perpetuity for any principal of sustained yield. While we can recognize the need for well-planned wilderness in Nevada, because of the above-mentioned reasons, the N4 and N6 grazing boards cannot support large acreage wilderness in Nevada. The N4 and N6 grazing board find that the 137 acres proposed as wilderness in Senate bill 722 to be well planned and reasonable, particularly since these areas have obvious wilderness attributes that were widely recognized. By the principle, we can support the areas designated as wilderness in Senate bill 722, we have serious reservations concerning the others portions of the bill.

No. 1, because of the difficulties experienced by permittees in other States with wilderness, we cannot support any wilderness bills unless specific provisions are included which clearly state permittees' rights as to reasonable livestock raising and motorized access to areas of historic use.

Because of the detrimental impact associated with Judge Kane's recent ruling, in Sierra Club versus Block, the N4 and N6 grazing boards cannot support any bill that would designate additional wilderness in Nevada until this decision has been reviewed by a higher court or by Congress.

No. 3, with the BLM and official wildlife service currently studying areas suitable for wildlife in Nevada, in a sense these actions will also have profound and long-lasting effects on the State, we oppose the designation of the Forest Service wilderness areas where they can be compared and analyzed against all wilderness

proposals. Let's plan on it in Nevada in a holistic manner rather than by piecemeal.

And finally, because of the importance associated with the national park, we strongly oppose the inclusion of a national park in any Nevada wilderness bill.

Senator HECHT. I'm going to have to ask you to conclude.

Mr. HENDERSON. That's it.

Senator HECHT. That does it?

Mr. HENDERSON. Yes. Thank you, sir.

Senator HECHT. OK. Is the sound on now?

Mr. HENDERSON. Yes.

Senator HECHT. Good. We apologize.

Don Conley or Hal Curti.

STATEMENT OF HAL CURTI

Mr. CURTI. Thank you, Senator.

My name is Hal Curti; I am a farmer, but I'm not here to represent any group. Rather, I would like to represent only myself, a Nevadan, and perhaps more importantly, an American.

As Congressman Reid said a little earlier, we must make a reasonable decision. We people, the ones here today sitting in this room, can influence the decision. And with this influence comes a great responsibility on us to make the correct decision. I believe certain land would benefit from wilderness area inclusion, but certainly not any land would benefit from this inclusion.

The Seiberling bill makes me somewhat uncomfortable. One area that I am most personally familiar with is the Mount Rose area. I have stood on the peak of Mount Rose six times looking out down upon the city of Reno. Is this what a wilderness area is supposed to preserve? Wilderness areas are not the only answer in the management and preservation of public lands.

So, therefore, in looking at the two bills, I support the Laxalt-Vucanovich-Hecht bill. Personnally, it shows a little more thought in the selection of the lands that would be put into a wilderness area.

And I would, again, just like to emphasize that this decision we're making here today and at the other hearings comes that great responsibility that, you know, we don't want to cause more damage than not doing what would happen if we didn't put something into the wilderness area in the first place.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. We're going to go right on now to panel No. 3.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 3 is Allan Young, Ed Hollingsworth, Marsha Berkbigler, Mike Minette, Tom Norris, and Ed Rugg.

Panel 4 is asked to come up to the front row. Mike Hampton, David Hampton, Mary Cole, Paula Del Guidice, Roger Scholl, Jay Meierdierck, and Kelvin Buchanan.

Senator HECHT. Allan Young, are you ready?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes.

Senator HECHT. Let's go.

STATEMENT OF ALLAN YOUNG, PRESIDENT, NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. YOUNG. My name is Allan Young, I'm the president of the Nevada Mining Association.

Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, members of the staff, my purpose in speaking at this hearing today is really two-fold. First of all, on behalf of the Nevada Mining Association, I'll take this opportunity to comment specifically on the Nevada wilderness bill introduced in the Senate by you and your distinguished colleague, Paul Laxalt. Second, I believe that there's also a need to clarify the mining association's position on this issue and respond to some of the unjust criticism which has been leveled against our industry in the recent weeks.

For more than a decade, Nevada's mining industry has been consistent in objecting to the withdrawal for wilderness of those Federal lands containing significant mineral potential when the value of this potential is sufficient to outweigh the public benefits derived through wilderness designation. Such a position is consistent with the intent of Congress. The original Wilderness Act allowed 20 years for development of mineral deposits in designated wilderness areas. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act provides for a thorough mineral potential review of wilderness study areas on BLM lands before wilderness can be recommended. The Forest Service is also obligated to consider mineral potential when judging an area for suitability as wilderness.

After careful review of all national forest areas proposed by Congress for wilderness designation, we find that several are of high mineral potential. We intend to continue to object to wilderness for these areas. We strongly deny that continued support of this position indicates that we are any more self-serving than a good business organization must be for the benefit of its stockholders, its employees, and the community in which it operates.

We sincerely regret that wilderness in Nevada has become the highly charged political issue that it has. Our position on wilderness cannot and will not change, regardless of who may be candidates for congressional elections or who wins these elections. We did not create this political issue, but we have every intention of continuing to defend our position regarding it. We have been accused of being greedy in opposing what at first seems to be a relatively small percentage of acreage as wilderness. By unfortunate coincidence, however, the same geologic forces which were responsible for mineral deposits can also be credited with the creation of some of this State's most scenic areas.

Nevada's mining operations are concentrated in rural areas. Because of this, we are obligated to consider the wish of the majority of the residents of these areas concerning the issue of wilderness designation on national forest lands.

The Laxalt-Hecht bill most accurately addresses the needs of not only the mining industry, but of rural Nevadans and all Nevadans who enjoy and depend on the concept of multiple use of public land. We encourage passage of the Laxalt-Hecht bill as a starting point for what will become of Nevada's contribution to the wilderness system.

In taking this position, we are not advocating the sacrifice of our wilderness heritage, as certain proponents would have one believe. Areas for which we favor release from formal wilderness consideration are already wilderness and will essentially remain so, regardless of designation. Why? Because many of these areas will continue to be given special management treatment by the Forest Service as roadless areas. The only difference being that, provided certain requirements are met, mining could be permitted. If one assumes that mineral discoveries and their subsequent disturbances will continue to the extent which they have for the past 100 years—approximately six one-hundredths of 1 percent of Nevada land area—then it becomes clear that the issue is not whether to preserve areas as relatively pristine wilderness—this will be done to the extent possible by the Forest Service even in those areas which are dropped from further wilderness consideration. The real issue is simply whether to adopt a more restrictive land management policy for these areas, a policy which will be more palatable to the leaders of the wilderness movement. This change, unfortunately, represents a possible loss of important future economic opportunities for the residents of rural Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ED HOLLINGSWORTH, PRESIDENT, NEVADA MINERS AND PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Thank you, Senator.

I am Ed Hollingsworth, I am the president of the Nevada Miners and Prospectors Association. Our association does not believe that Nevada contains any lands that will meet the description of wilderness. However, in the spirit of cooperation and compromise, we have agreed to support your bill, Senator. We do oppose the Reid-Seiberling bill.

Basically, wilderness is an illusion, as much an illusion as the Emperor's New Clothes in that classic fairy tale by Hans Anderson. The chicanery of the cheats and tricksters in the fairy tale who exploited the vanity of the Emperor and his subjects and cheated them out of their money and jewelry has strikingly similar parallels in our wilderness system.

Instead of money and jewels, however, we are being cheated out of our natural resources and livelihood.

Understand that there are 228 million acres of land in the United States under consideration for inclusion in the wilderness system; over 8 million of these in Nevada. Is it believable that there remains in these United States an amount of wilderness the size of Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico combined? I hope not.

However, as the two cheats and tricksters in the fairy tale manipulated the Emperor, his court, and subjects into believing the existence of nonexisting clothing, so have the professed environmentalists and conservationists manipulated the Congress, the bureaucracy, and the unsuspecting public into believing that this Nation can afford to tie up forever vast acreages of resource land under the guise of wilderness. There is already in the wilderness

system about a hundred million acres of land—an area the size of California.

In Nevada, the present day cheats and tricksters are attempting to convert over 4 million acres of land amenable to public use—or to multiple use into 107 islands of nonuse.

The Congress has already enunciated its policy of multiple use and identified and limited the major and principal uses of the Federal lands to be: Domestic livestock, fish and wildlife development and utilization, mineral exploration and production, rights of way, outdoor recreation, and timber production. Note that wilderness is not one of the major and principal uses of public lands.

However, the conservationists and environmentalists have, through treachery and deceit, deluded a large segment of the public into believing that wilderness, which is a non-use proposition, is the highest and best use of lands in these United States.

Isn't it about time that we recognize that wilderness, like the "Emperor's new clothing," is an illusion, a very dangerous illusion, which, if not dispelled immediately, eventually will place such a burden on the developers of our natural resource that they no longer can afford to produce.

Wilderness, at best, is a misconception gone awry. At worst, it is a cancer destined to engulf our natural resources.

Our request of you, Senator Hecht, is that you protect our State from the hysteria of the wilderness advocates. Please do not compromise your bill or the State of Nevada. We do not need or want wilderness in excess of that proposed by your bill.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Marsha.

STATEMENT OF MARSHA BERKBIGLER, ON BEHALF OF FREEPORT-McMORAN GOLD CO.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

To begin with, I would like to personally thank you, Senator Hecht, for your continuing efforts to support the real interests for the people of the State of Nevada. I'm certain that you, and certainly Barbara Vucanovich, are aware of the difficulties facing the mining industry today.

By the way, I will tell you that my name is Marsha Berkbigler, and I am here representing Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co. It isn't necessary to review with either of you the various problems that we're facing; however, I would like to discuss for a minute the effect that land withdrawals in the form of wilderness designations are having on our industry here in Nevada.

Nevada, in the most recent years, has become the exploration capital of our Nation for several reasons. The key reason, obviously, is the favorable geologic environment. Mines must be developed where minerals exist and can't be moved for political reasons.

Some other factors, though, include the reasonable mine tax system, a favorable attitude toward mineral development by Nevada lawmakers and the general public, and, of course, the current availability of land. That, of course, is why we are here today.

Seventy-six percent of Nevada—actually, 87 percent of Nevada—is controlled by the Federal Government in various forms. And if

you take a look at this map back here behind us, you will see that the possibility of even more control is of great concern.

The darker green areas on the map are those areas that would be included in the Seiberling-Reid proposal. The orange areas on the map are those areas that will possibly be included in the BLM wilderness proposals. All of those are different areas that are being reviewed by the BLM for wilderness.

Nevada has vast, wide open spaces so mineral exploration can take place, but they're all under control of the BLM or the Forest Service and thus they're subject to various controls.

Of course, the reason we're here today is the Forest Service lands. As more acres are withdrawn from the multiple-use concept, the prospect of developing more mines, such as Freeport's mine in the Independence Mountains, becomes less likely. Freeport's mine occupies only 100 acres, and yet we've taken 1 million ounces of gold and over 400 people are employed by this one mine. Current reserves allow us to continue for 10 to 15 years.

Really, I have submitted a written testimony and my main purpose here today is to tell you, Senator Hecht, that we do support your proposal. Freeport is behind you 100 percent.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Berkbigler follows:]

PREPARED FOR SENATOR CHIC HECHT
HEARINGS ON S 722
FEBRUARY 13, 1986

To begin with, I would like to thank you, Senator Hecht, for your continuing efforts to represent the interests of the citizens of Nevada.

I am here today both as a representative of Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company, and a long-time resident of Nevada, to express my concern for the future of our country and specifically the mining industry. While I am certain that you are well aware of the various problems facing the mining industry today, I would like to discuss for a minute the effect land withdrawals in the form of wilderness designations are having on our industry here in Nevada.

It is a well-known fact that elements or commodities frequently appear in significant concentrations in portions of the earth's crust. Only in the not-to-distant past has Nevada emerged as a major gold province. We now rank number one in domestic gold production, In 1984, there were 6,300 workers employed in the state mineral industry with approximately 3500 employees in various aspects of gold production, furthermore previously established gold ore reserves in Nevada total 20 to 25 million ounces of gold. Gross mineral revenues were approximately $650 million. Mining accounts for over half the county payroll in more than half of Nevada's counties and net proceeds of mines taxes contributed $4 million to the counties in which mining activity occurred. Some $10 million per year is provided by the industry to the distributive school fund which is disbursed throughout the state on a per-pupil basis. Gold is not the only important

mineral mined in Nevada, however, it did account for 58% of the total domestic production in the United States in 1984. Nevada was not only the leading producer of barite with 85% and mercury with 99% of the U. S. supply but the state also produced 100% of the nation's supply of magnesite. Nevada ranked 3rd in silver production. In addition to hard rock minerals, Nevada is fortunate to have a growing petroleum industry and, although we are not on a par with Texas or Oklahoma, we will nonetheless produce in excess of 3 million barrels of oil in 1985. Oil production tripled in the last two years and is still increasing at an annual rate of 50%. In fact, Nevada is currently the leading state in the nation for minerals exploration of all kinds - hard rock, petroleum and geothermal resources.

There are several reasons why Nevada is quickly developing into the exploration capitol of the United States; the key factor is the state's favorable geologic environment. Mines must be developed where minerals exist. But aside from that, Nevada also has a reasonable mine tax system, a favorable attitude towards mineral development by lawmakers and the general public and the current availability of land. It is to this last point that I would like to direct the remainder of my talk.

There are several wilderness bills before Congress for consideration. Mr. Reid, Congressman from Las Vegas, supports a bill with approximately 936,000 acres of wilderness and 174,000 acres as a national park. He has stated that his proposal affects only approximately 1% of the state's land mass. But let's consider for a minute what the current land picture in

Nevada looks like. 48% of Nevada is in the Basin and Range province covered by ± 1000 feet of gravel. We do not yet know how to find or remove ore from this much cover. So this percentage of land must be removed from consideration for minerals exploration. Also 30% of Nevada is already withdrawn from multiple use in the form of Indian reservations, military reservations, national wildlife refuges, toxic waste dumps and existing wilderness. Out of almost 71 million acres of land, this leaves approximately 24 million for multiple use and, therefore, mineral exploration. With the above-mentioned withdrawals taken into consideraiton, Mr. Reid's proposal actually covers 3% of the state, and his bill only covers forest service wilderness proposals. The BLM is reviewing another 3,000 acres for wilderness. If mineral deposits are to be found, the mineral industry must be allowed access to the lands where they may occur. Looking for economic mineral deposits has very poor odds of success and some say that looking for ore bodies is like searching for a needle in a haystack. If part of the haystack is removed from the search, the discovery rate for needles is reduced, so it is with ore bodies. Unfortunately, the ore bodies are already in place and can't be moved to more politically favorable sites; consequently, land withdrawl simply reduces the potential for future discovery.

Freeport-McMoRan Gold's mine in Elko County, Nevada occupies less than 100 acres of land, yet more than a billion dollars of gold revenues and approximately 400 jobs are created from this one mine. With a life span of 15 to 20 years, think of the possibilities for economic growth of the rural counties if just one such mine were to be discovered in each county.

Although that may never happen, Nevada is the primary exploration target for many companies and we know for sure it will never happen if we withdraw the land before it's ever explored. Some problems which are inherent with wilderness are buffer zones, visual corridors and clean air basins which are very possible down the road, and, of course, the current problem of control of the water which originates within or flows into a wilderness area. All these are concerns which may endanger mining outside, but near a wilderness area. In a state the size of Nevada where we already have so much government control and with an ecological system (i.e. little water and frequent winds) such as we have, these issues are of even greater concern.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for your concern and remind you that current laws already protect the pristine nature of our land. We must be allowed multiple-use access to the majority of our lands if we are to protect the economy or our state and our ability to live and work in Nevada. Exploration techniques today are sophisticated and cause little surface disturbance, but they are expensive. Mining companies, as with any good business, are reluctant to invest millions of dollars in an exploration effort unless there is sufficient land to be explored and the companies are assured of being able to develop a resource once it's discovered.

Please consider the importance mining plays on our lifestyle, not only here in Nevada, but all over America. Our nation has roughly 5% of the world population, yet we consume almost 25% of all mineral materials. Will hugh

wilderness withdrawals benefit Nevada? With multiple use, we have options to keep certain areas pristine, to allow motorized transport for ranching and hunting, as well as mining, should an ore deposit exist. With wilderness, we have no options. Perhaps one of the most important functions of our land in America is to support our citizens. Mining is an industry that allows our nation to live off the land. This has been our heritage.

Wilderness is important so that future generations can know what America was like in the beginning. But wilderness for wilderness's sake is wrong. Already many acres have been closed to the majority of Americans under the guise of protecting the wilderness. We must support a practical and workable approach to wilderness. We at Freeport-McMoRan support such an approach, we support S-722 introduced by Senators Laxalt and Hecht.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Tom, how are you?

STATEMENT OF TOM NORRIS, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV

Mr. NORRIS. I'm Tom Norris, miner from Battle Mountain.

Wilderness is a terrible concept. If you woke up in the middle of the night and heard the term for the first time, you'd know you just had a bad dream, and it's not a bit better in the light of day.

One of the greatest ideas our Government ever had or any government ever had was the Homestead Act. Remember when people lined up in Oklahoma in 1880 and were told to have go at it, that the land was free. In the next 50 years, the West was won. The roads, the bridges, and the cities were built. The infrastructure of the western nation was in place. But if we had the basic rules that we have in public lands today our Nation would have stopped at the Mississippi River. Then why do we have this wilderness? It makes no sense. Well, I expect it's merely a cause for a bunch of restless people that have much work to do. It's only the crusade, not the concept that they're really interested in.

But ostensibly they have some reasons. No. 1, it will protect wildlife habitat. But more game is harvested in Pennsylvania than it is in Nevada, and they have virtually no public land in Pennsylvania.

No. 2, it's a good place to meditate, they say. But, good gosh, you could meditate any place. A bathroom is a wonderful place to meditate. Recreation, but 1 million, 2 million—other million people are locked out. And then, of course, there's that other one, that great warm feeling, that great inner glow you get by just knowing it's out there. Well, horse feathers. The main reason, of course, is to leave some pristine wilderness to posterity. Well, you can't leave things of that nature to posterity. Posterity's got to take care of itself. We can't.

The only legacy worth a tinker's damn that we could leave our kids are our ideas and values. Leave them a government with taxes low enough that they can enjoy the fruits of their labor; a government strong enough that they can be protected from without; an economy that is vibrant enough so that something is left over for research and development so that they can invent some oil when the oil runs out.

You know, the United States and Canada developed the greatest nation with the highest standard of living the world's ever known, but it didn't work that way in South America. Why not? They had capitalism, they had long shorelines, good rivers, good soil, abundant natural resources, an energetic population, and a good climate. There's only one thing different. They didn't have freedom.

Our Government allowed us the freedom to do anything that we were big enough to do. We went out and did it and we prospered. But in the last 30 years some of these freedoms have started to erode. Some people want the Federal Government to do everything for us from the cradle to the grave. And this wilderness concept, with all of its restrictions, is just one more wedge splitting our Nation apart.

I implore you, give us as little wilderness and as few rules as you possibly can.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Norris follows:]

Prepared Statement of Tom Norris

If I were a lizard I'd surely welcome this Wilderness thing. But, I'm an animal of another species and I certainly do not propose to foul my own nest by voluntarily locking myself out of my own habitat. You'd think even the Sierra Club would be smarter than that, wouldn't you?

John Siberling, when visiting the Cow Counties last year took offense at the term "lock out" when someone used it, and spent the rest of the afternoon lecturing us about meaningless buzz-words. He had a lot of guts telling us about buzz-words. Washington, not us, invented buzz-words and newspeach, and goobly-good and mumbo jumbo.

And besides that, he was wrong. Wilderness designation does effectively lock us out. Mining without roads and disturbing the ground is impossible. Grazing livestock will be difficult at best and impossible to improve the range. Only a few hardy souls mostly males in the 18 to 30 age bracket that are back-packers can ever see it. And I submit that most of them will be smart enough to never make the second trip.

Siberling says, "Well what difference does it make"? They wouldn't see it anyway. Well, anyway the only chance we old fat men have is for someone to build a road, a heli pad, or off-road vehicle trail which will be done as the need arises and the market demands, unless of course, it is prohibited by law as in the Wilderness bill.

(2)

Wilderness is a terrible concept. If you woke up in the middle of the night and heard the term for the first time, you'd know you'd just had a bad dream.

One of the greatest ideas a Government ever had was the Homestead Act. Remember when people lined up in Oklahoma in 1880 and were told to have at it, the land was free. In the next 50 years the West was won. The roads and bridges and the cities were built. The infrastructure of the Western nation was in place.

All this happened in about ¾ century until the Government got one of the worst ideas a Government ever had. That was when they decided to keep all the Federal land and created the B.L.M. to manage it.

I ask you,"Does anyone here really think this winning of the West could have been done with all the restrictions on the land that we have today?"

~~And whyfore~~ Then Why; this Wilderness that makes no sense. I expect it's merely a cause for a bunch of restless people that haven't much work to do.

Ostensibly the reasons are it will protect wildlife habitat. But more game is harvested in States with practically no Federal lands than out here where it is nearly all Federal land.

It's a good place to meditate, they say. But a good place to meditate is almost anywhere.

And then of course there is that great warm feeling you get by just knowing it's out there. Well Horse -- Feathers! The main reason of course is to leave some pristine Wilderness to posterity.

Well sir, you can't leave material things which are finite to an infinite thing like posterity. Posterity will have to take care of

(3)

posterity when the time comes. We can't. The only legacy worth a tinkers damn that we can leave our kids are ideas and values. Leave them a Government with taxes low enough that they can enjoy the fruits of their labor. A Government strong enough to protect them from without. An economy that is good enough so that something is left over for research and development so that they can invent something to take the place of oil when it runs out. And then leave them the greatest gift of all FREEDOM.

You know the U.S. and Canada developed the greatest Nation with the highest standard of living under Capitalism that the world has ever known. Socialism, of course, has never produced.

But it didn't work that way for our neighbors to the South. Why? They had Capitalism, they had long shore lines, good rivers, good soil, abundant natural resources, an energetic populace, and a good climate as did we. The difference between us and them was only one thing, freedom.

Our Government allowed us the freedom to do pretty much anything we were big enough to do. We did it and we prospered. We didn't have to ask the alcalde for permission to cross the street or "Go West Young Man."

But, in the last thirty years I have seen some of those freedoms disappear. Some people want the Federal Government to do everything for us. Socialism exists only under Government auspices. And of course, it's greatest tenant is Government ownership of land.

This Wilderness bill with all it's restrictions is just one more wedge splitting our system apart. I implore you give us as little Wilderness as possible and give as few rules as you can.

Thomas D. Morris
Battle Mt. Nevada

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Tom.
Ed.

STATEMENT OF ED RUGG, MANAGER, DOME MINES

Mr. RUGG. First of all, my name is Ed Rugg, I'm a manager for Dome Mines, a Canadian-based gold mining company.

My testimony is concerned with the economic impact of the exploration business in Nevada. At a time when State officials are making overtures toward foreign corporations and sources of capital to establish new industry in Nevada, they are also supporting a radical environmental movement which is placing punitive restrictions on residents who are dependent upon access to and development of natural resources. It is time the officials realize that expansion of the tourist industry, which is typically seasonal and of short duration, will be no substitute for the expansion of the mining industry and at least maintenance of the current agricultural and ranching enterprises.

During the past 8 years, Dome Mines has spent over $3 million in Nevada on exploration. This has resulted in their acquiring a 30 percent interest in one producing gold mine in the Carlin District of Elko County. Annual expenditures in Nevada for 1985 were $664,000, and included payments to various rural county governments, motels, restaurants, and contractors and also Reno area suppliers. These costs represent an average of $332,000 a year per professional geoscientist on Dome's staff, and are the expenditures of a relatively small office where only three people were employed full time and two or three others hired temporarily for short periods of time.

Considering that there are over 50 exploration companies with offices in Reno, and an unknown number with offices in other States and countries which are working primarily in Nevada, the number of professional people involved in exploration reaches several hundred.

Using these documented costs as a reference base, the multiplier effect is out. The wide geographical distribution of these exploration funds is of great benefit to counties with low population densities, as well as to large supply centers, such as Reno.

The erosion of these funds provided by industry through withdrawal of millions of acres of Federal land will have a serious negative effect to the cow counties, and also on the diversification of industry in Nevada. The present restrictions imposed on the mining industry contravene the intent of the multiple use philosophy which was presumably the basis for the legislation sponsored by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture.

Furthermore, exploration companies have no assurance, after spending millions of dollars on testing mineral occurrences, that if an economic deposit is delineated, the required permits would be issued to allow extraction and processing of minerals. The unilateral approach favoring the environmental groups in the wilderness study areas is a strong deterrent to private capital being spent on what might be, in the final analysis, a futile effort.

The current restrictions on road building and the use of existing roads is causing an unjustified increase in exploration costs, they

are reducing the effective use of limited exploration funds, and it's time the environmental issues were considered in an economic context and removed to a political football field.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

It's been 1½ hours and our court reporter's fingers are getting tired.

We're going to have a 5-minute recess. When we reconvene, the Governor's just arrived and he will be the first witness.

[Recess taken.]

Senator HECHT. Governor Bryan.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD H. BRYAN, GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEVADA

Governor BRYAN. Thank you very much, Senator Hecht.

Let me preface my comments this morning by thanking you and the members of your Subcommittee, and I see that we are joined by Congresswoman Vucanovich, for holding these important hearings in our State and giving our fellow Nevadans an opportunity to share their views on an issue which is of enormous import to all of us.

I personally welcome this opportunity this morning to offer my unqualified support for the creation of a Great Basin National Park, the first national park in our State.

Mr. Chairman, as you and the members of the subcommittee know, the prospect of a national park in the State of Nevada is not a new one. It's been considered at least since the 1920's. The potential benefits of such a park were last thoroughly considered in the mid-1960's.

At that time Gov. Grant Sawyer and then-Lt. Gov. Paul Laxalt, served on the executive committee organized to push for the establishment of a national park. Bob Warren, the leading park advocate of the day, best summed up the case for the establishment of a national park in 1965 by saying, and I quote:

> It should be observed that the attraction of a national park is a resource which will never deplete or go out of business because of competition or obsolescence of product lines. Instead, it will become an ever enduring source of recreational and economic benefits to White Pine County and the State of Nevada.

Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully submit to you and the members of this subcommittee that Mr. Warren's observations of more than 20 years ago are as accurate today as they were then.

The Wheeler Peak area is the center piece of the proposed park. It evidences the diversity of Nevada's spectacular geology and the variety of our wildlife. The peak of more than 13,000 feet is Nevada's second highest. Rising nearby 8,000 feet above the surrounding valleys, the vista offers alpine lakes, big horn sheep, muledeer herds, ancient bristlecone pine, and nearby Lincoln Caverns. It is a resource treasure we can preserve for future generations of Nevadans while we share it with the Nation.

The park location is well suited to be included in a national park travel route. It is in close proximity to national parks in Utah and in Arizona. The park would also complement other eastern Nevada attractions, including State parks, ghost towns, and such attractions in the Ely area as the railroad museum.

The economic impact of a national park in Nevada is apparent. A national park would be an important addition to the economy of eastern Nevada and contribute significantly to our goals of development and diversification of Nevada's economy. It would expand upon and enhance tourism, promotional mechanisms, activities already in place.

As important as the economic impact of a park is, the contribution it offers to our State is one of image. All too often, outsiders view our State with a wasteland mentality, fit for a toxic dump location or nuclear dumping ground for the waste products of other States. All Nevadans would share the pride in our State that a national park would engender and the proposed park would represent the remarkable scenic diversity which truly characterizes Nevada's land.

It is important to recognize that a park of 120,000 acres in size would comprise less than two-tenths—let me repeat that again—less than two-tenths of 1 percent of Nevada's 71 million acres of land. It is incomprehensible to me that designating such a small area as a national park could have adverse consequences that would outweigh the merits and benefits of such a park.

The park proposal, must, however, assure the protection of resources upon which many Nevadans depend. A reasonable approach must balance the legitimate needs of agricultural, livestock, and mining interests. I understand the concerns of the five cattle ranchers and the one sheep operation which run approximately 570 head of cattle and 2,400 head of sheep, and the opposition in general of livestock operators to this proposals.

Reduction of the proposed park area to approximately 120,000 acres, as proposed by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, would, in my judgment, eliminate some of the livestock operation concerns. The concept of a lifetime right to use the lands, protecting the interest of the current livestock operators, should be incorporated into a park proposal. I might add, Mr. Chairman, as you know, that is not without precedent.

There are presently no active mines within the proposed park area. I recognize, however, the concerns of the mineral industry regarding potential mineral value in the area. Again, these impacts should be reduced by the reduction and park size to 120,000 acres. This park proposal would permit exercise of valid existing mining rights.

Impacts on wildlife are another concern. Fishing is normally permitted in national parks in accordance with State laws and regulations, and this provision should be included in the Great Basin National Park proposal. The contemplated park size here, once again, would also eliminate many of the concerns voiced by Nevada hunters.

I support specific legislation which would provide for the design and management of a park, especially suited to the State of Nevada and tailored to Nevada's unique conditions and opportunities.

Let me speak now to the question of wilderness. It has been and continues to be my position that a final decision on the designation of wilderness areas in Nevada will require compromise by all interest and by all parties. It is important that wilderness legislation be

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enacted at the earliest date. Until a specific wilderness proposal is enacted, the approximately 3.3 million acres under consideration must, as you and members of the subcommittee understand, be managed as de factor wilderness. The enactment of a responsible wilderness compromise will preserve our finest scenic resource areas while releasing the remaining 3.3 million acres.

Mr. Chairman, as evidenced by your proposal and that of Congresswoman Vucanovich and others before the Congress, the issue before us is not whether we should have wilderness areas at all—all of the congressional proposals designate some wilderness—the question is how much should be designated. The specific areas to be included in wilderness designation and the acreage within those areas, as well as the total acreage to be identified, have been and will continue to be the subject of extensive testimony before this committee.

I urge this committee and Members of Congress to fashion a reasonable compromise, and I assure you that the representatives of the State of Nevada stand ready to assist the committee in accomplishing this purpose.

Let me conclude on a personal note, Mr. Chairman, by thanking you for accommodating some difficulties in my schedule this morning. And I am here to respond to any questions that you or Congresswoman Vucanovich may have.

Senator HECHT. Just two or three short questions to clarify the record.

The bill, as reported out of the House committee, would designate 174,000 acres for the Great Basin National Park. You mentioned a reduction in that acreage?

Governor BRYAN. 120,000, Mr. Chairman.

Senator HECHT. So, you cannot go along with 174,000?

Governor BRYAN. I favor the White Pine County Chamber of Commerce recommendation to us, which is 120,000 acres. There may be an acre or two, give or take, but I think you know the proposal that I have in mind, Senator, because I am sure it's been presented to your committee.

The 120,000 acres, it seems to me, is responsible balance between those that have argued for a larger park and those that argue for no park at all. And 120,000 acres seems to be a reasonable approach.

Senator HECHT. Dick, whether you are for a park or not, do you like the way it's been done—having people from Washington come out without any hearings in the State of Nevada and telling us where the national park should be? Even Congressman Mo Udall from Arizona complained about it. How do you feel about that?

Governor BRYAN. Senator, with the greatest respect to you and your colleagues, both in the Senate and the House, much which is done in the Congress meets with my disapproval. But I'm not going to pass judgment on the procedural mechanism. As a former colleague of mine and the State senator you and I do know that we do things much differently in the State senate level, and I am sure privately you would agree with many of the approaches that you and I have taken over the years.

What I think is important is that we had an opportunity, Senator, more than 20 years ago to get a national park. We lost that

because it got caught up in some political conflicts of the time. You and I know that Governor Sawyer and Lieutenant Governor Laxalt were strong and effective advocates of the park. Senator Bible, Senator Cannon, and Congressman Baring opposed the park and we lost that opportunity.

My point is not whether or not I would endorse the procedural mechanism. My concern, and I think the concern of most Nevadans, is that we not lose the opportunity to get a national park this time because you or I might privately differ with the approach that was taken. And in that respect, I would certainly salute and compliment you and members of the committee for giving Nevadans, such as myself, and others the opportunity to comment on the park, up or down; wilderness, how much, or how little.

Senator HECHT. You know, the wilderness, as you mentioned, has to be a compromise. But would you want to have a separate bill for the national park?

In other words, perhaps a White Pine County Commissioner would introduce a resolution to the Nevada legislature. Is that the way these things should happen or would you like to see the park proposal as part of the wilderness bill?

Governor BRYAN. Senator, I must confess, being a Governor some 2,700 miles from Washington, that I am not sure what the most effective process is in achieving the result. I guess, being a pragmatist, I am interested in results. And the result that I am interested in is the establishment of a national park. Whichever mechanism is most likely to achieve that result, I would be able to support. You and your colleagues could probably share with us as Nevadans where that's most likely to occur.

Senator HECHT. Well, we'll take a look at it and see how we're doing.

Now, let's get a question on the wilderness. Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1 was brought before us, and I think it passed Nevada Legislature 60 to 3 endorsing the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill. Did you sign this?

Governor BRYAN. Yes, I did. But, Senator, in all due respect, I am familiar with the resolution. I do not read the resolution as being restrictive. I read the resolution as an indication of the legislature, and I think your recollection of the voting record pretty well comports with my own, an expression that at least that much should be designated.

In fact, the operative provisions of the resolve clauses contemplate that there will be further study and further input, which suggests to me most persuasively that those numbers could change. And I think that a good many people that voted for that resolution had that understanding. So, I do not view that resolution as an exclusive endorsement at one particular proposal.

Indeed, at the time that it was proposed in the form of AJR-1, which, as you know, is in the heady early days of the session, Senator, the other proposals were not before us. So, I think it's an indication that the Nevada Legislature supports the concept of wilderness, at least this amount of acreage, and leaving it open for discussion as to more. And that's where the element of compromise, it seems to me, comes in.

Senator HECHT. Well, basically, our bill is 137,000 acres; the U.S. Forest Service proposal 400,000 acres; the Redi bill as introduced, 700,000 acres; the Reid bill, as amended and reported out, about 1,100,000 acres; the Seiberling bill, 1,400,000 acres.

Give us some point where you feel we should be.

Governor BRYAN. Well, Senator you're a long time political observer of Nevada, as am I. You and I know that the Seiberling proposal has no chance of passing both Houses of Congress. And, as honest and fair mined people, you and I know that the 137,000 acres has no chance of passing both Houses of the Congress.

In my judgment, we've got to come up with some kind of a compromise. And I would certainly be willing to work with you and Congresswoman Vucanovich, Senator Laxalt, and Congressman Reid. It would not be helpful for me at this juncture to pull out a number and say, "Here's a number that I think you ought to go with." There are already enough of those numbers on the board. I think we ought to be able to work out something. I have talked with a number of groups around the State, as I know that you have. I think there's appetite for a compromise.

This is an opportunity for all of us—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—to shed the labels for a moment and set aside whatever personal bias or preference we might have and try to work out something that we can all live with, and that's what I am suggesting. On behalf of the State with respect to our agencies, I make that commitment to you personally and to Congresswoman Vucanovich, we'll work together with you. But I think we need a compromise.

Senator HECHT. Congressman Seiberling stated many times on that helicopter that it is not the size of the acreage, it is the fact that the congressional delegation gets their heads together and pulls with the same voice. So, it is not the size of the acreage that counts as far as wilderness.

Governor BRYAN. Well, I think the Congressman is correct in the sense that I think if the delegation, that is, the two of you in the House and the two of you in the Senate, can reach an accord, I would think that the Congress is likely to give its affirmative approval.

That's why I think it's important for all of us, Senator, to try to work some compromise and obviously you've got to have a definitive number, whatever it is.

I am not suggesting that one particular number has to have its presence in the bill to enjoy my support. I am flexible in working with you in terms of getting that compromise number. But the two extremes, it seems to me, are not likely to have that kind of a political consensus, as I read it.

Senator HECHT. The mining industry has expressed tremendous concern the last 3 days that the Reid bill would be a threat. They brought out over 125 different companies that are in Nevada. They feel this bill would stop exploration, it would stop search for a strategic minerals that we are not able to get in certain parts of the world today, petroleum reserve, so on and so forth. How do you feel about that?

Governor BRYAN. Well. I've talked with a number of people, as I know you have, in the mining industry who privately have indicat-

ed that they think it's in their best interest as an industry to reach some kind of a compromise. And, very frankly, many of them have looked to you, Senator, for leadership because of your longstanding support of the industry, and they have certainly indicated to me that they are flexible.

So, I think that the mining industry can be persuaded in the best interest of not only their own industry, but in the best interest of Nevada that we can get some kind of a compromise that everybody can live with. Obviously, nobody wants to endanger a mineral industry in this State, but we've got to have some kind of a compromise to get this off dead center, and I have talked with a number of members of the mining industry that have indicated that they are prepared to go forward. They don't want to take the lead at this point because you obviously have a bill with a particular number of acreage set-aside, and they have indicated that they would look to you for leadership and working with the other members of the delegation to come up with a figure, and I think we can do that. I'm confident it can be done.

Senator HECHT. Well, personally, I appreciate the fact that you took the time to come to the hearing. Though you and I disagree on politics, I hope we can get our heads together and work this out soon, as we did with the low-level waste issue. Whenever that time comes, we will forget politics. We're going to put you into the equation right now, whether you want to be or not, OK?

Governor BRYAN. Listen, if we can just take the R and the D off the jerseys and work for what's best for Nevadans, I think we can reach a compromise.

Senator HECHT. Dick, that is the whole purpose of these meetings around the State. Let's let Nevada take care of its own lands and not let people from the outside come in. That's just exactly what I want to do.

Barbara, do you have some questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes. Thank you, Senator.

I would like to just pick up on that particular issue. I note that in the last year or so, that you have been spending some time and some money visiting other countries, or planning to, and other States, encouraging them to come to Nevada.

And we are sort of ambivalent here, saying, yes, we want Nevadans to make decisions. Congressman Reid made some very strong comments that we had outside mining interests who were really interfering with our State, and I think it's rather ambivalent.

We're spending time running around asking other countries to come and invest in our State, and then when they do we say we don't appreciate you coming in and interfering in our State. I just want to know what your position is on this.

Governor BRYAN. The trade deficit, which, as you know, this year will approach $150 billion is the largest trade deficit of any country in the recorded annals of history.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Certainly.

Governor BRYAN. Clearly, what we're trying to do, and I think the President and Congress both support, is to get the Japanese, in particular, to recognize this problem. One thing that the business community in this State and I will be doing in April, as you know, is going on this trade mission. Our purpose is to encourage Japa-

nese investment in the United States as a means of offsetting, in part, that trade balance to make our dollar more competitive on the international market.

So, I'm not one to subscribe to the concept of either a political or economic xenophobia. As long as we can get those people to come in and invest their dollars here, and not give them an advantage over local Nevadans who are in business, but let them all compete on that level playing field that the President talks about a great deal, I'm for it.

So, I do not resent in any way folks from out of State or out of country coming in and inveting in Nevada, as long as we don't give them an advantage over local business people who are already here. So, I don't have a problem with that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. So, you don't subscribe to the fact that there are outside mining interests who are really being very selfish about trying to keep this wilderness bill out of some of the areas that have been proposed?

Governor BRYAN. Well, I certainly would not want to put a blanket over all outside mining companies. I know that I have talked with several myself, names which everyone in this room would recognize, and they have told me, Congresswoman Vucanovich, as I told Senator Hecht, that they look to the two of you who have been supporters of the mining industry.

They are prepared to go further in the compromise. They're not hung up on the 136,000 acres. They do not want to embarrass you because you've been strong supporters of the industry, but they're prepared to go much further in the spirit of compromise. And I am just suggesting that all of us ought to respond to that and work together, and I think that we can.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I think we can, sure.

Governor BRYAN. And those companies have indicated to me that they're prepared to do so.

They need the leadership that you and Senator Hecht and the other members of the delegation can provide. And I am here to tell you that I am prepared to work with you.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Changing the subject very briefly and talkikng about the park, we found so much divisiveness in the smaller counties. I think most of them are looking to the national park as a real asset, an economic asset, and I personally think that it might be.

A lot of the concern seems to be that it would change the multiple-use concept. Something has occurred to me in the form of a compromise which I think we ought to look at. Is there any possibility that the State could work with the Federal Government to make Wheeler Peak, a multiple-use designation rather than a national park, and use it in a way such that it would have other uses than just as a national park?

Governor BRYAN. That may theoretically be possible, but let me return to my premise.

The first is that a national park, in my judgment, provides great economic advantage to the State, outweighing, in my judgment, at least, any argument that can be marshalled against it. We're talking about two-tenths of 1 percent of the State.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Do we know what percentage that is of White Pine Country?

Governor BRYAN. It's still a very small percentage, in my judgment.

What we also gain, it seems to me, not only are the economic benefits, but a national park says something about us as Nevadans, that we have something that is so desirable that it warrants the sanction and protection and designation as a national park, much as Yosemite, Yellowstone, Glacier, and all of the other national parks, and Bryce and Zion, which are to the east of us.

We lose that, in my judgment, if we try to play with a notion that somehow we can have something that's not quite a national park, but maybe more than a State park. And it seems to me that we lose not only the designation in terms of what it does in terms of the economic advantages as being designated as a national park, but we also lose an opportunity to send this powerful message to the rest of the country that Nevada is not a forlorn, godforsaken part of the country. It is a part of the country which, as Nevadans, we know has majestic beauty unrivaled by any other of the 49 other States. And I think that's important for us.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I think that certainly is one of the arguments that we've heard a great deal, but then we've also heard so many of the concerns about the people who literally do make their livelihood from that land.

Governor BRYAN. And that's why, Congresswoman, if I might add, we ought to protect those ranchers, and the sheepherder that are on that location right now by providing them the lifetime right to continue that operation. I think there is a balance. That's what we're talking about.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I think we need that.

Governor BRYAN. And I think that's important. And I respect the concern and share the concern of those families that earn their livelihood on that land.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you. I'm getting a look from Senator Hecht saying it's time.

Thank you.

Governor BRYAN. Thank you so very much.

Senator HECHT. One last question, Dick.

Governor BRYAN. All right.

Senator HECHT. The other wilderness proposals, especially BLM's, do they concern you?

Governor BRYAN. It obviously concerns me in the sense that there have been no final recommendations in that. We will want to know what recommendations are ultimately going to be made, but it seems to me that we've got to take one at a time. And that we make the decision with respect to the ones that are before us right now, and I think you characterized the acreages that are involved in all of the various proposals before us.

And I think that if we can show some leadership here, Senator, I think we can whip the rest of them into line.

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Dick. Thank you for coming.

Governor BRYAN. Thanks, Chic.

Senator HECHT. Go on, give him a hand.

Panel No. 4, would you please come up.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel coming up to the front row should be panel No. 5: Joe Sanchez, Tom Casinelli, Elizabeth Dahl, Casey Shpall, Joe Gastanaga, Joanne Randall, and Billy Borda.

Senator HECHT. OK. We're ready to start. Would you please take your seats and hold the conversation down.

We have a very distinguished panel led by a very distinguished young American. Mike, it's all yours.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL HAMPTON, CARSON CITY, NV

Mr. MICHAEL HAMPTON. Senator Hecht and Members of the Senate, I am Michael Hampton of Carson City. I wish to speak to you about wilderness. I also want to speak about the future of kids all over this country.

Most of us young people want to go to land that is not messed up by things people do. When we are older, we want a place where animals can live in peace. We want to see them in the wilderness, not just in zoos. I think wilderness is a good way to make sure the land will be for the animals, too.

We kids know there is not going to be wilderness if your bill turns into law. It is not a wilderness bill. You want miners to tear up any place just to go look for things to mine. I think there should be some places where cars, trucks, and motorcycles can't go. The real treasure here is not the minerals; it is the beautiful scenery and places for wildlife.

Miners in Nevada leave big messes. Nobody cleaned up the big messes by Yerington or Ely. I don't want to see the Rubies, Mount Jefferson, and Wheeler Peak messed up by the miners. These places are worth more as wilderness than they are as mines.

I don't see why you can't protect the Ruby Mountains as wilderness for all the children to come. You told me last summer they were a beautiful place. I agree, and I want them to stay that way.

I want to thank you for showing me the helicopter in Lamoille Canyon of the Rubies. I asked my dad if I could get a larger picture so you would not forget the Ruby Mountains. Thank you for the hat you gave me last summer and for listening to me now.

Senator HECHT. Let's give Mike a hand.

Thank you, Mike. Thank you very much.

Mike, I'm glad you're as young as you are, because I'd hate to run against you.

Dave.

STATEMENT OF DAVE HAMPTON, ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

I am Dave Hampton representing Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Our coalition of environmental and civic groups now represents nearly 10,000 people with a wide spectrum of interests.

Nevada currently has some of its finest lands in 113 Forest Service roadless areas eligible for wilderness designation. We recommend 21 of those 113 areas be incorporated in your bill. We urge you to consider wilderness values, rather than a simple lack of controversy as the basis for your wilderness selection.

The need to seek solitude in our undisturbed natural areas will increase as the lands available for this solitude decrease. Wilderness designation will assure, as the only guarantee, that these lands will remain in a natural state.

We strongly oppose your bill because it does not include many extraordinarily scenic places, such as the Ruby Mountains, deserving wilderness protection.

The decision to open up 109 of the 113 roadless areas to development is virtually a final decision. We should not do it simply because the mining industry hopes there are minerals there. On the basis of claims data, the Reid bill, for example, has few mineral conflicts. In fact, the suggestion that these areas are highly mineralized is a myth.

What does a miner or a minerals corporation do to show actual interest in the land? They claim it. In other words, Senator, if the minerals are there, then why were they not claimed?

Ranchers and miners represent about 5 percent of the people in Nevada. Ranchers have very little to argue about. Their grazing rights are protected in wilderness. Miners know that minerals can be developed in wilderness if they're demonstrably valid and economic claims. Both groups oppose any extra steps they may have to take to ensure the land remains natural.

The extra provisions in your bill having to do with chemical spraying, animal poisoning, watershed manipulation, and vehicle use, are contrary to the intent of Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Your effort is viewed simply by both sides of this issue as a roadless area release bill.

Wildlife has no place in your bill. We believe you refuse to see the value of undisturbed wildlife habitat.

We wish to go on record in strong support of the Great Basin National Park proposal of Harry Reid. This park will go a long way in dispelling the notion in the minds of many people outside of our State that Nevada is a wasteland. We seek the park proposal as a fitting honor for one of Nevada's most beautiful places, Wheeler Peak of the Snake Range.

In summary, we do not see your bill to be for wilderness at all. "The Emperor is naked," Senator Hecht. Your bill rather simply defines itself as a negotiations posture and a political payoff to those interests that have historically had the power over the use and abuse of Nevada's Federal lands. We feel your bill lacks vision in behalf of those future Nevadans who will want to enjoy Nevada's most scenic places as we did.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Thank you, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Mary Cole.

STATEMENT OF MARY COLE

Ms. COLE. I support Harry Reid's bill 3302. I feel that we are very fortunate as a State to have so much open land with so much raw beauty.

With our population blossoming and with Federal Government trying to turn our State into a nuclear dump, I think we should take advantage of this opportune time to protect our lands, not

only for our enjoyment as residents of the State, but for all the visitors who we hope to attract to the State.

I feel that the Nevada wilderness bill, so-called S. 722, is a very weak attempt to protect our lands, and I fully support H.R. 3302 and it's close to a million acres of wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Paula Del Giudice.

STATEMENT OF PAULA Del GIUDICE, PRESIDENT, NEVADA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Ms. DEL GIUDICE. Good morning. Thank you, Senator. I am Paula Del Giudice, president of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, a statewide organization comprised of some 1,600 individual members, plus 25 sportsmen and outdoors oriented clubs, including off-road vehicle groups. Our stand on wilderness is one of moderation. We support the areas proposed in the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests' draft forest plans. We also support adding the Mount Rose, East Humboldt, and Table Mountain areas for a total of approximately 625,000 acres in 12 areas. We recognize specific final acreages may vary.

The subject of wilderness in Nevada has been discussed, perhaps argued is a better word, with considerable emotion by all interests. Misrepresentation has occurred frequently in a frantic effort to affect the outcome. Wildlife issues within the wilderness have also been pushed and shoved in the melee. It is apparent that wilderness in Nevada may have to be decided elsewhere if all this continues.

I will briefly state our understandings and positions:

We believe that designating an area as wilderness reflects public recognition that the area is special and deserves protection. Just as many Nevadans were concerned that the proposed Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management interchange would strip the Nevada map of its forest green, a symbol of higher value of land, so does wilderness status connote higher resource value.

We do not understand why communities and ranches in the vicinity of potential wilderness areas do not see an economic potential for themselves in wilderness. This value is recognized elsewhere and goes along with Nevada's objectives of economic diversification and tourism goals.

Much has been said of depriving access due to creation of wilderness. It is our understanding that the areas delineated by the Forest Service were chosen for their lack of roads. There may be jeep trails that would be closed, but essentially few would be denied vehicular access because that access presently doesn't exist. If some road closures are necessary that we are not aware of, that is acceptable. Vehicular access into wildlife areas can be counterproductive to the resource.

We do not feel that the Federal court ruling on wilderness and water in Colorado has any practical application in the wilderness proposals in Nevada. The physical/geographic location of recommended areas precludes depriving downstream users of their water rights because retention or diversion of water at those elevations and locations does not appear feasible.

In the matter of grazing within wilderness areas, we support the continued use where it existed prior to the establishment of the area. We would accept any reasonable language that Congress may incorporate to that effect.

We understand that the State will continue to administer the management of wildlife, including control of hunting, fishing, and trapping, based upon standard wilderness act language. We accept the fact there will be constraints on management techniques and limits on the versatility of management options. We feel all interests must compromise to achieve the objective of having representative wilderness in Nevada.

In closing, I offer the following quote:

> Surely we are wise enough to recognize that man needs more than the steel and concrete environment of urban civilization to fulfill his natural role here on Earth. He must also have the sanctuary of unspoiled land, a place of solitude where he may turn his thoughts inward. He must have the opportunity to wonder at miracles of creation.

Alan Bible, former U.S. Senator for Nevada.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Jay.

STATEMENT OF JAY MEIERDIERCK, VICE PRESIDENT, LAHONTAN AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. My name is Jay Meierdierck, I am vice president of the Lahontan Audubon Society.

The Lahontan Audubon Society wishes to go on record as an enthusiastic supporter of H.R. 3302, which includes the proposed Great Basin National Park.

Wilderness areas are economically productive in a broad sense, as well as spiritually refreshing. A wide cross section of Nevadans benefit from the preservation of wilderness resources. Wilderness users have priorities which place a high value on scenic beauty, variety, and naturalness. An adequate wilderness system, as proposed in H.R. 3302, protects watersheds needed by all Nevadans, serves as critical habitat for wildlife, and improves the quality of our air because of the filtering action of the forest vegetation.

Nevada's economy is uniquely characterized by the recreation and tourism industry. Wilderness recreation opportunities are clearly an important part of the package Nevada needs to offer visitors.

Nevadans are understandably confused over the wilderness proposals for the State before Congress. Unfortunately, to make matters worse, a number of misconceptions and outright distortions are being bandied about by certain parties involved in the debate.

The truth is, there is little, if any, conflict between the interest of the mining industry and the designation of wilderness in Nevada. For example, there are only eight mining claims in the proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area, and all eight of them lie outside the boundaries sought for the area by conservationists.

Likewise, only nine-tenths of 1 percent of Quinn Canyon Range, another area conservationists would like to see preserved as wilderness, contains mining claims. Overall, just 1½ percent of the land conservationists desire designated as wilderness is claimed, where-

as fully 25 percent of the land eligible for mining in Nevada is claimed.

There are other misconceptions about wilderness. Some people mistakenly believe that hunting and fishing are not allowed in designated wilderness areas; they are. In fact, many sportsmen favor wilderness for the protection it provides fish and wildlife, thereby enhancing fishing and hunting opportunities and their experience.

H.R. 3302 is a positive proposal, although it, too, proposes preservation of less of Nevada than I and the Lahontan Audubon Society would like to see protected.

Senator, Nevada deserves better than the no wilderness bill introduced by yourself and Barbara Vucanovich. Your bill does not even include the Ruby Mountains or Wheeler Peak, to cite two very obvious examples. But, worse, the provisions of your bill are counter to the meaning of wilderness. When you allow access of vehicles into an area that, by definition, prohibits vehicles, you have no credibility.

Nevada is virtually the only State in the Nation that has not adopted wilderness legislation. Nevada has more than 100 national forest roadless areas totaling 3.6 million acres. Over the past 50 years, the United States has built a Federal land conservation system that is the envy of the world. It is time that Nevada joined this system. Nevada wants and deserves a good wilderness bill and a national park.

The issue is not politics but preserving natural resources. The central issue is to balance the need to preserve Nevada's best wilderness areas and the need to provide reasonable access to miners and ranchers. H.R. 3302 does this. It protects a number of very important scenic areas, including Mount Rose, Table Mountain, the Ruby Mountains, and of course, the Great Basin National Park.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Kelvin.

STATEMENT OF KELVIN BUCHANAN, CHAIRMAN, NEVADA TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Mr. BUCHANAN. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Kelvin Buchanan. I'm chairman of the Nevada Trust for Public Land, and I reside at 7490 Lakeside Drive, Reno, NV.

The Nevada Trust for Public Land serves four functions: One, to preserve outdoor recreational areas for the education to the general public. Two, to preserve relatively natural habitats of fish, wildlife, plants, and similar ecosystems. Three, to preserve historically important land areas and buildings. And, four, and this we believe is our prime function, to preserve open space, including farmland and forest land for scenic enjoyment where such preservation is for the benefit of the general public.

Members of this trust are probably similar in makeup to members of the 351 other trusts across the country. They consist of people who were concerned about disappearance of green areas and about encroaching urbanization.

This does not mean, however, that we support all legislation preserving such green areas when that legislation is controlled by out-of-State representatives.

The Nevada Trust for Public Land supports neither the Vucanovich bill nor the original Reid bill. We believe the Vucanovich bill is closer to what the majority of Nevadans wants, but we would propose some additions.

These additions are: One, the Mount Rose area, 33,000 acres, a selection which is already backed by the unanimous vote of the Reno City Council.

Two, the Ruby Mountains area; however, we suggest that the Ruby Mountains be set aside as a national recreation area in conjunction with the Ruby Marshes, not as a wilderness area. This concept might be appealing to Representative Seiberling, who was a prime mover in creating the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in Ohio in 1977 and 1979. Although eminent domain was used to take over much of the land in the Cuyahoga Valley, this would not be the case in the Rubies.

Three, Representative Seiberling has added the Great Basin National Park to the wilderness bill. We support the concept of a national park, but not as a part of this bill, primarily because we are concerned about funding and we don't believe that Nevadans deserve a second-class national park.

Finally, the trust opposes Representative Seiberling's bill and also opposes any concept of a buffer around any present or future designated wilderness areas. And this would specifically impact the proposed Mount Rose wilderness area because of the smog in the city of Reno.

Nevadans have been looking after their de facto wilderness areas for over a hundred years, and we will continue to do so without Eastern assistance.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I just want to point out, I appreciate your testimony because, although you criticized, you came up with some suggestions and that's very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

And thank you, panel. And, Mike, thank you for the picture. I'll keep that in my office.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Next panel is panel No. 5: Joe Sanchez, Tom Casinelli, Elizabeth Dahl, Casey Shpall, Jose Gastanaga, Joanne Randall, Billy Borda.

Panel No. 6 should come up to the front row: Rose Strickland, Glen Miller, Gail Townsend, Gaye Momerak, Beth Heggness, Barbara Kelley, Kasey Doescher, and Juanita Tubleson.

Senator HECHT. So, you ready?

Mr. SANCHEZ. Sure am.

Senator Hecht. Let's go.

STATEMENT OF JOE SANCHEZ, ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr. SANCHEZ. My name is Joe Sanchez. I am here on behalf of the Western Shoshone National Council.

The Western Shoshone National Council takes this time to inform the congressional delegates, the various special interest groups participating in these hearings, and the citizens of the State of Nevada that the title to large portions of the lands which are being considered for wilderness designation remains with the Western Shoshone Nation. The Western Shoshone Nation has at no time relinquished title to our homelands.

We, one of the many original nations of this continent, have continuously occupied our territory for thousands of generations, and will continue to do so. We will not quietly stand by as the American Government attempts to impose more control over our homelands and our future.

We do not oppose protecting the Earth against ever increasing exploitation and destruction. Our original instructions, our law, requires that of us. The Western Shoshone National Council's position is that much of the land being considered in the various wilderness bills is Western Shoshone land. If there is to be any talk of bills, the first bill that needs to be taken care of is for what you owe us in back rent, we, the landlords, for your use of our lands.

Once again, we state that it is, because title to the Western Shoshone homelands remains with the Western Shoshone Nation, and because many of the areas which you are considering as wilderness are actually Shoshone lands, that we have chosen to make this presentation to you.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

What's your name?

Ms. SHPALL. Casey Shpall.

Senator HECHT. Go on.

STATEMENT OF CASEY SHPALL, ON BEHALF OF THE MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION

Ms. SHPALL. I'm with the Mountain States Legal Foundation, which is a public interest law firm dedicated to preservation of private property rights, individual liberties, and free enterprise system.

In 1984, Mountain States Legal Foundation, intervened in a lawsuit, *Sierra Club* v. *Block,* in order to protect the rights of western water users and the integrity of western water systems from Federal encroachment. This lawsuit was brought by the Sierra Club in order to establish the doctrine of Federal reserve water rights for wilderness areas. A Federal reserve water right is a water right that's established outside the State system of prior appropriation, and the priority date of that water right is in the name of the Federal Government and dates back to the date of the original reservation.

We also intervene in this case because Mountain States is in favor of multiple use of the public lands and we felt that this lawsuit had very bad ramifications for multiple use in national forests.

And our concerns were well-founded because in November of last year, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, ruled that when Congress set up the national wilderness preservation system, it had quietly reserved water rights, along with the land reserva-

tion. Not only did it reserve them on the original designation but every designation thereafter. Given this ruling, I would direct my comments to the implications of this decision for any new and increasing wilderness designations in the State of Nevada.

A Federal reserved water right for wilderness areas is basically a nonconsumptive in stream flow right. The nature of such a right for wilderness is such that it would command a total flow of the stream, the maintenance of the given lake level, or the continuance of ambient water tables to protect ground water rights.

The grave mistake many have made in interpreting the decision in *Sierra Club* v. *Block* is to assume that its impact on western water users would be limited. This naivete, which in some cases, I think, is just ingenuous, is based on the fact that many wilderness areas are at the top of peaks. It is also based on the fact that wilderness areas, because of the late designations, would have a relatively late or junior priority date.

First, although many existing wilderness areas in national forests are at high elevations, the proposed wilderness areas for Bureau of Land Management lands are generally in the lowlands and basins and valleys. The Federal reserve water rights for downstream wilderness areas could affect the entire reach of the stream by requiring the maintenance of historic water flows.

Second, it is no comfort to water users to say that the wilderness water right would be a late priority date and not affect the seniors.

In Nevada, like Colorado, and most other prior appropriation States, a senior user cannot change his use if it would conflict with or injure a junior appropriator, such as a wilderness reserved water rights. Therefore, any time a senior wants to change his use, change his point of diversion, transfer or exchange his water rights, all those opposed, from the Federal Government to a preservation group, need only scream injury in order to halt such a change.

Since many Western streams and rivers are fully appropriated, a Federal reserved water right for wilderness we are sure would effectively preclude the only available options for water development in the West.

Senator HECHT. I'll have to ask you summarize your last sentence.

Ms. SHPALL. OK. The language proposed in Senate bill 722402-A is the very language that was ignored by the Federal district court in Colorado. However, 402-B expressly states that a reserved right is not created by wilderness designation.

It doesn't help with the existing Nevada wilderness areas, but as far as the opposed wilderness areas, it will preclude the creation of the Federal reserved water rights.

Senator HECHT. I'll have to ask you to stop. You're welcome to submit anything for the record, but we have to continue on.

Ms. SHPALL. I just wanted to conclude with: This is Congress' job and it shouldn't be left to the whims of the Federal court.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Would you please identify yourself and we'll go right on.

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH DAHL

Ms. DAHL. OK. I'm Elizabeth Dahl.

Senator Hecht, Representative Vucanovich, and fellow Nevadans. I appear here today to express support for Senate bill S. 722, the practical wilderness policy.

My name is Elizabeth Dahl and I am a student at the University of Nevada-Reno. My primary concern about any bill that creates more wilderness than does S. 722 is the discrimination that would result against many sectors of Nevada's population.

The first and foremost of these sectors is the handicapped. It seems incredible that a government that would mandate special parking places, special access to public buildings, and equal opportunity employment for the handicapped, would then turn around and lock up vast areas of land under wilderness restrictions. These restrictions would effectively prevent the physically disabled, as well as many senior citizens and families of small children, from visiting and enjoying literally hundreds of thousands of acres of their own State.

Those individuals who enjoy a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities will also be discriminated against with the creation of more wilderness. Skiers, hunters, fishers, snowmobilers, campers, will all be prohibited from traveling into these areas by motor vehicle. Only those few people willing and strong enough will be able to backpack into the wilderness areas.

Only one-fifth of the Nevada's Sierra Club members, along with a small amount of wealthy out-of-State visitors, are actually involved here. This tiny elite group of extremely enthusiastic hikers seems to believe that one million acres of land must be preserved for their special use, with no one else to enjoy the beauty of the land.

In effect, the proponents of excess wilderness seem to be saying: Enjoy Nevada our way or don't enjoy it at all.

The creation of excessive wilderness areas also deals a severe economic blow to those rural regions of Nevada which depend on mining and ranching. No fewer than 15 of Nevada's 17 counties have drawn up resolutions opposing the Reid and Seiberling bills.

It's obvious that the inhabitants of these proposed wilderness areas are the ones who are most opposed to designated wilderness in general. Perhaps these rural residents are making a valid point. If their immediate surroundings, the mountains, deserts, and ranges of Nevada truly were in danger of being plundered or ravaged or somehow changed for the worse, wouldn't these rural residents be actively lobbying for Government protection of the lands near their homes?

But quite the opposite seems to be true. Government designation of wilderness is viewed as a limitation of lifestyle, a restriction of rights. Nevada residents know their lands are not in any danger. There is plenty of room for all who wish to hunt, fish, camp, ranch, mine, snowmobile, and even hike.

Rather than listening to the urban dweller, an only occasional visitor to rural Nevada, it makes more sense to heed rural Nevadans from 15 counties who say the less Government-designated wilderness, the better for Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please identify yourself, sir, and then we'll go on.

STATEMENT OF JOSE GASTANAGA, RENO, NV

Mr. GASTANAGA. My name is Jose Gastanaga. I live at 2190 Manzanita Drive, Reno, NV. Thank you, Chic Hecht, and those who have made these hearings possible.

My wife Gloria and I are both third generation Nevadans, and my children are fourth generation Nevadans. I'm a businessman, having been an owner of supermarkets, hotels, casinos, vending companies, and other businesses. All of our lives, my family, friends, and I have freely and peacefully used, respected, helped, and preserved the open lands of Nevada for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and general sightseeing.

I am totally opposed to any Federal wilderness program. I am especially opposed to the Seiberling-Reid bill because of its vastness, and also it adjoins property owned by my uncle Eugene Gastanaga and myself located in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Humboldt County, NV.

I agree with all the objections presented by my uncle earlier. In addition, I object because the value of our property will decrease. We will be continually—we will continually be faced with harassment and maybe eventually be denied access to our property. Our water rights may also be in jeopardy. We would face undue and unnecessary problems in the very smallest development of our lands.

Let us remember it was Nevada's mining that was a major factor in winning the civil war. Nevada can again today be a major factor in our national defense by allowing search and development of strategic and other minerals, rather than buying them from other countries. Government programs always grow and are nearly impossible to eliminate or to reduce. Therefore, cattlemen's range rights are in jeopardy.

To properly administrate these vast lands, the Federal Government will have to increase spending. My uncle and I have two roads leading from our property onto the proposed wilderness lands. There must be hundreds or even thousands of such roads throughout the State. Numerous personnel will have to be hired to police these lands.

This Tuesday evening on television, President Reagan said the Federal Government spends more dollars per dollar benefit than any city, county, State government, business, or tax-exempt organization.

In conclusion, I ask that all Federal Government wilderness areas be dropped. This program will adversely affect, socially and economically myself, my family, ranchers, farmers, miners, business, labor, and each and every citizen of this great and beautiful country.

It is physically impossible to monitor and to control this vast acreage without spending huge sums of money while creating a policing policy we do not need or want—a policing agency. This huge spending will increase the Federal deficit or it will increase our taxes. The voters have made it clear they want to cut and eliminate Federal spending. Let's do it now before we spend it.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Joanne Randall.

STATEMENT OF JOANNE RANDALL, RENO, NV

Ms. RANDALL. Senator Hecht, we appreciate you being here and listening to our needs.

As a mother, I want to be able to enjoy Nevada with my family. But with land locked in wilderness, it would be virtually impossible to enter. There is no way my 7-year-old could lug a heavy pack and hike in the wilderness. Are Nevada's children to be excluded from areas of their own State by a misled few? We don't intend to drive off existing roads. All we want to do is enjoy this State as a family.

Do those supporting wilderness realize roads here are many times just more than a dirt trail and require four-wheel drive to traverse, or do they visualize a paved thoroughfare? Maybe they need to be educated to Nevada terminology and environs.

The Reno Gazette Journal yesterday reported that a wilderness advocate claimed not only are grazing and hunting guaranteed under the Wilderness Act, the concept of multiple use is preserved. I believe that statement is false because how is multiple use preserved when only a very limited number of people can afford to spend the time and are physically capable to hike in the wilderness?

Wilderness would prohibit young families, the handicapped, the elderly from using our State. A lot of my friends with small children couldn't drag the kids here for 3 hours, yet they use those existing roads to take those same kids fishing and recreating in areas that may be closed to them. We moms need to keep Nevada open.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Bill Borda.

STATEMENT OF BILLY BORDA

Mr. BORDA. Senator Hecht and members of the committee, my name is Billy Borda and I go to Carson City Junior High School. I am 13 years old and am in the seventh grade.

I have been taught there is usually more than one way to see an issue. However, I see this from the point of view of a sheep rancher.

My family is into sheep ranching and we do not want a lot of wilderness designated in Nevada. We want to do our work without Government interference. If Nevada is covered with wilderness, we will not be able to get our sheep with vehicles. It will make our operation more difficult.

Designated wilderness areas will lock out many people who could otherwise drive to these places when roads are built. These areas would only be occupied by only small groups of hikers. Picnickers, pine nutters, sightseers, and elderly, and the handicapped will be denied the use of their vehicles in these areas.

Miners need to be considered, too. There are minerals yet to be found, and wilderness should not keep miners from exploring for them. Mines are an important part of Nevada's economic base, especially in the rural areas. Large portions of this State in wilder-

ness could threaten rural economies. Why cut us off from Nevada's resources?

Too many out-of-staters are dictating to Nevada on this wilderness issue. They fail to make it clear that wilderness will mean no timber harvesting, mineral leasing or resort development. Many of these same people will not spend much time in Nevada, but ranchers and miners are on this land all the time.

This is only the first step in wilderness proposals for Nevada. BLM will have theirs in addition to other Government agencies. We have to set the line somewhere.

Besides, people should realize the Hecht bill, as a modest proposal, is a beginning step in negotiations with the Reid bill in the House of Representatives.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. And I appreciate the fact that your school let you come over here today. You thank them on my behalf, would you please? Thank you very much, Billy. Thanks to the panel.

Give Billy a hand.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Rose Strickland, Glen Miller, Gail Townsend, Gaye Momerak, Beth Heggness, Barbara Kelley, Kasey Doescher, and Juanita Tumbleson.

The panel that should come up to the front row is panel No. 7—Russ Vawter, Ed Dunkley, Connie Bowers, Betty Snyder, Mark Kilburn, and Gordon Trevett.

Senator HECHT. While we're waiting for the panel, I want to acknowledge the group of businessmen, studying government, who are standing in the back. This group is sponsored by the Reno Chamber of Commerce, and is known as the Leadership Reno, and we thank you for joining us today.

Are we ready, Rose? Nice to see you.

STATEMENT OF ROSE STRICKLAND, RENO, NV

Ms. STRICKLAND. Thank you. Nice to see you.

Although I am member of many Nevada conservation organizations, I speak today here as a citizen.

The debate over wilderness is being marred by much misinformation. Opponents have worked themselves into a hysteria, prophesizing the end of livestock grazing and hunting and the demise of the mining industry, if wilderness is designated.

The facts belie these fantasies. Even a casual acquaintance with the laws would assure these fearful ones that livestock grazing and hunting are clearly permitted to continue in wilderness. The establishment of all proposed wilderness areas would only amount to 1.5 percent of the entire State. Unless the mining industry feels all the valuable minerals in the State have migrated under the proposed wilderness areas, they cannot expect us to seriously believe that wilderness designation would have any effect on mining, much less cripple it.

Other arguments border on the absurd. Citizens for a practical wilderness, a euphemism for no wilderness, claim that wilderness means, quote, no restrooms, no pads, no fireplaces. If these citizens really think that real Nevadans have to have toilets, trailer spaces,

and constructed fireplaces to enjoy the great outdoors, they must be recent imports from California.

So, the disagreements boil down to differences in philosphy and values. Wilderness supporters value preserving our resources and opponents value extracting our resources. Probably most Nevadans and Americans favor extracting some resources and preserving others.

Isn't this what you have been hearing from Nevadans testifying before you? Since I only have 3 minutes to tell you what I feel, I can't get across much more than my basic support of wilderness. I am neither articulate enough nor enough of a fast talker to be very profound today.

For your information, I support wilderness designation for all 14 areas in H.R. 3302, plus the proposals for the Toiyabe Crest, the Grant Range, Sweetwater, and the Excelsiors, and I strongly support the proposed Great Basin National Park. I have hiked and camped in most all of these areas and can personally assure you that they have outstanding wilderness and other natural values.

While I agree that it is important to listen to the views of Nevadans who are lucky enough to live near Nevada's beautiful wilderness areas, I feel that it is very important for you to listen to the views of Renoites and Las Vegans who make up over 85 percent of Nevada's population.

I was, therefore, dismayed to hear that you said the people testifying at the Ely hearing were worth more than 50,000 people in Las Vegas. I sincerely hope you were misquoted. I would certainly resent being devalued because I choose to live in Reno or Las Vegas. The philosophy underlying such a statement would appear to defy our Constitution, which sets one man-one vote as the law of our land.

A great deal of common sense will be required to balance the needs of resource preservation and extraction in the compromise which is necessary to resolve this issue. If you give more weight to any one factor, I urge you to give more consideration to the future and to the needs of our children and their children.

I ask you to think carefully of what you want to give them as their legacy: A State with its beauty and worth recognized by the Nation in 14 wilderness areas and a national park, or a State thought by the rest of the country to be fit for nothing but nuclear waste dumps and other projects no other State wants.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Senator HECHT. Rose, let me just set the record straight. I said the turnout in Ely, which was just tremendous, was equal percentagewise to a turn out in Clark County of 50,000 people. You cannot believe what a turnout we had and the enthusiasm for the hearing in Ely, so I did want to correct the record on that.

Next Glen Miller.

STATEMENT OF GLEN MILLER

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. My name is Glen Miller.

Roger Scholl who was to testify for the Sierra Club is ill. His statement will be submitted separately.

I'm an associate professor of biochemistry at UNR and have been a Nevada resident for 8 years. I support a wilderness designation for 21 areas in Nevada, totaling approximately 1.5 million acres. This would, by the way, be only second to Utah in the lowest amount of wilderness in the Western United States.

I also support strongly creating a Great Basin National Park in the South Snake Range. This would be a fine package for protecting a small fraction of Nevada's wildlands, and I believe future Nevadans would commend you for the far-sided act of designating these lands as wilderness, but that is perhaps not to be.

H.R. 3302, as passed out of the Interior Committee, is the best we can hope for. You should know that this bill with the Great Basin National Park and 940,000 acres of wilderness would give Nevada the least amount of protected land that the Western United States has as wilderness and national park. So, in that respect it is an extreme bill. It would be the lowest amount of national park and wilderness together in the Western United States.

It would also leave unaffected 99.8 percent of the claims in Nevada. We have very painstakingly gone through and counted the number of claims up in Nevada in these areas and compared them with the amount of claims totally in the State. There's only two-tenths of a percent claims in these areas. So, 99.8 percent of the claims will remain unaffected.

Now, these lands have been open to mineral exploration, as has all of the lands open to mineral lands in the 1872 mining law, and I would question whether they would have substantial mineral value simply because they had not been claimed. In addition, no mines have ever existed in any of these areas. So, no mines, miners would lose their jobs.

No Nevada water rights will be affected. I would hope that somebody who is suggesting that they would give us an example. None have been given. And indeed a staff report from the Subcommittee on Public Lands also says that water users downstream from the wilderness would not be affected by the wilderness water rights. It just simply isn't the case, and an example should be asked for in Nevada if that is the case. But all of these are defensive arguments for wilderness.

The fact of the matter is, these lands are spectacular and Nevada and Americans as a whole deserve to have these areas retained protected in their natural state: Steep glaciated escarpments, glaciated surface of small lakes and streams in the solitude and peace only the open Nevada high country has to offer would be protected.

These are rich biological areas of big game that will be continued to be hunted—that's important to recognize—and also fish—I enjoy fishing and don't do enough of it. But there are also the small critters it will protect.

Senator HECHT. I will have to ask you to summarize one last statement.

Mr. MILLER. I just want to say that—I think this has gotten to be a very partisan issue and I hope that the partisan nature of this would not be retained, and I hope the committee could get together and come up with a compromise of the 940,000 acres.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please identify yourself and just start right in.

STATEMENT OF GAIL TOWNSEND

Ms. TOWNSEND. My name is Gail Townsend, and I'm here today as a private citizen and a resident of Nevada to tell you that I am in favor of the Reid House proposal and, if possible, I would be in favor of more wilderness area. I am very much in favor of the Great Basin National Park.

As part of my job, I travel all over Nevada and I have grown to appreciate the unique and subtle beauty of our State. I think it's unfortunate that some of our major highways are very good at hiding this beauty and you have to get out and walk around in order to really appreciate it.

I'm really looking forward to a national park as a grand base from which to explore some of Nevada's State parks. I think they're greatly ignored, and we have a wonderful resource that we don't use.

I think that Mount Rose is one of the wilderness areas proposed that I would use and have used extensively. I have gone all over that area at all seasons of the year. I ski it in the winter and camp, hiking in the summer. I'm happy to see that the Reno City Council has endorsed the Mount Rose wilderness area.

I would like to respond to one criticism of the wilderness areas that I think is extremely damaging, and that's the idea that somehow elderly and handicapped people are going to be kept out. Senior citizens in this country certainly face a lot of problems, but probably the most damaging is the idea that as you reach a certain age, you become incompetent or you become an invalid and you are not able to do things.

I had the opportunity last summer to hike with a group of people mainly in their seventies, and I had a hard time keeping up with them.

I'm glad that no one told my friend who was born with cerebral palsy and a speech impediment that she couldn't become a salesperson. I'm glad that no one told my friend who lost his arm during the Vietnam war that he couldn't become a carpenter and an artist.

I don't want to be in a position of telling people that they're incompetent. And I think that these kinds of damaging stereotypes should be removed from the debate.

And I would like to request that you exercise your leadership roles, Senator Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, to remove this from the debate on wilderness proposals.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please identify yourself and go right on.

STATEMENT OF GAYE MOMERAK, RENO, NV

Ms. MOMERAK. Senator Hecht, I am Gaye Williams Momerak from Reno, NV. I have taken my personal leave day to come here to urge your support of H.R. 3302.

As a third generation Nevadan from Elko County and a property owner and taxpayer in both Washoe and Elko Counties, I have a deep personal commitment to the lands of this State.

As a young person growing up in the foothills of the Ruby Mountains, I rode horseback across country that seemed to extend to infinity. In my wildest imagination, I could not have envisioned that those rugged hills would be desecrated as they have been today. Once virgin lands are either scarred with ORV tracks or have been bulldozed, developed, and covered with asphalt.

I feel, therefore, that in order to guarantee that there will always be a significant part of Nevada left unscathed by reckless technology, it is necessary to make a meaningful commitment to preserve Nevada's pristine mountain areas.

Although I have been privileged to hike the Ruby Mountains and hope to retire there, I have seen few of the other proposed sites, and I am learning that I am unlikely to as I am approaching senior citizenship. However, I would rather never see these lands than to travel to them in a motorized vehicle, only to find a fast food restaurant at the top.

As an educator, I feel that the final decision regarding Nevada's wilderness lands can have a profound effect on how our young people perceive and develop values of our own. Do we leave them a heritage based solely on greed and destruction, or do we show them the importance of a commitment to the wilderness that is based on what wilderness is and not on what can be taken from it?

I have recently learned that a group of professional outfitters and hunters is concerned about being excluded from wilderness areas. However, for two different summers, I worked with a volunteer group for the U.S. Forest Service in the Absaroka wilderness area of Wyoming. Our task was to build trails to be used by professional packers and hunters. The trails were built without the use of any power tools to exacting specifications in order to minimize erosion, and to provide optimum safety for horse and rider. It would appear that the fear of exclusion would be invalid and unfounded.

I feel, Senator Hecht, that H.R. 3302 is a bill that is in Nevada's best interests. Please give it your most serious consideration.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Go right on down the line, please.

STATEMENT OF KASEY DOESCHER

Ms. DOESCHER. Senator Hecht and members of your commitee, my name is Kasey Doescher, and I go to Carson City Junior High School. I am 12 years old and in the seventh grade.

I support wildnerness. I wish to point out that the decisions you make will affect many generations to come.

Wilderness is the only sure and legal way to protect the roadless areas that are left. It is the only way to guarantee the land will be left as it is, to nature.

You have chosen only 4 out of 113 wilderness areas of Forest Service land for wilderness. These areas were picked simply because they lacked controversy. I don't think the Republicans Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, as great conservationists, could give your bill much respect. Even someone my age can see

that your Nevada wilderness proposal falls short. Please look at this graph and you will see what I mean.

The blue is the average of the Western United States in wilderness and Forest Service wilderness land, and it's 3.8 percent. The red is Nevada with the Hecht bill, and it is only three-tenths of 1 percent. The green is Utah, and it's the second lowest State in wilderness, it has 103 percent plus five national parks.

How could you not pick the Ruby Mountains and Wheeler Peak? Most people think they are more beautiful than the areas in your bill. Can you picture large mining operations in these two areas? What can you offer that guarantees these beautiful areas will be left undisturbed for future generations? Why do the profits of the miners have to take some of these scenic areas away from my children?

Miners say the proposals of environmentalists will eliminate mining opportunity seriously. Relatively few mining claims exist in these areas, though. If miners haven't made their claims already, then it seems clear to me they are not interested in mining these areas. Besides, in wilderness, a valid claim can be mined. It seems to me that the miners don't want to answer to people for putting roads everywhere.

You do not give the wilderness areas very much protection. Your bill allows for these motor vehicles, weakens restrictions on mineral development, herbicide spraying, animal poisoning, and water development in the wilderness. If you ask me, any kid can see that this is not what the Wilderness Act was supposed to do.

Your bill does not consider the spirit of wilderness values. Your goal appears simply to be the release of roadless areas in Nevada for development. Please give some thought to the people of the future. They need places to go that are not disturbed by man. The other animals of this State will be happier, too.

Thank you for listening to what I have to say.

Senator HECHT. Kasey, that was very well said. And you go back and you thank your teachers for giving you the opportunity to come here today, and you go back and tell your fellow students how fortunate you are to live in a State like Nevada where your elected public officials do listen to you.

Let's go right on.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA KELLEY

Ms. KELLEY. My name is Barbara Kelley. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the wilderness proposal.

I support H.R. 3302, including designation of a national park in the South Snake Range. However, there are two outstanding areas that are neglected in the bill that I would like to see added in the final legislations. These are the Excelsior Mountains in Nevada and California, and the Central Toiyabe Mountains in central Nevada. The Excelsiors are a low elevation area donating a splendid contribution to the national wilderness system. So would the Central Toiyabe Range, from whose heights one can see many other huge ranges of central Nevada, as well as many of our broad sweeping valleys.

All areas included in H.R. 3302 have unique and spectacular features that warrant their inclusion in any final legislation. Exclusion of any of these areas shows a blatant disregard of wise land-use planning.

I would like to make three points briefly. The first, is that even H.R. 3302 would designate less wilderness for Nevada than any other western State.

It is embarrassing to me, as a Nevadan, that we are not proud enough of these beautiful areas to keep them open for everyone, and to keep them beautiful for all to enjoy.

Second, I favor wilderness designation for these areas because I want my small children to have the option of enjoying them when they grow up. If they are not reserved, this option will clearly be lost.

We heard from a couple of people who said that families with small children couldn't enjoy the wilderness. I think that's ridiculous. My 3-year-old hikes now and I am sure that by the time she's 7, she'll be carrying a backpack if she wants to. This future generation argument I am sure you heard before, but I repeat it's because it's real and because it's important.

As I was growing up, my father often told me about summers he would spend canoeing with a friend in northern Minnesota. All my life I wanted to take such a trip, weeks on end seeing nothing but the unchange in the natural landscape. I can't do that. I can't repeat his experience now because interests that conflict with this open use of the land have changed the land, dammed the waterways, dried the wetlands, eliminated wildlife, and clearcut the timber.

Nevadans are free to roam the public lands, and I want Nevadans and all people now and in the future to have the same important freedom. Unchanged development deprives us of this freedom.

And this brings me to the third point. H.R. 3302 would designate less than one percent of the State as wilderness. That leaves 99 percent of Nevada available for all other purposes. All uses incompatible with wilderness combined can have 99 percent of the State. I can't understand the objection to this minuscule amount of land being offered for its development. Development is the only use incompatible with wilderness.

The areas named in H.R. 3302 were included only after extensive reconsideration of the boundaries to exclude potential conflicts with development interests. These interests are acting like a spoiled child saying, "I want it all." They're like spoiled children grabbing toys and hiding them so no one else can use them.

Wilderness designation does not close off their land, it keeps it open for people to enjoy forever. Development excludes everyone else and is, therefore, contrary to the goals of multiple use lands planning.

I strongly urge you to abandon consideration of S, 722, and work for passage of legislation comparable to H.R. 3302 that is amended to include the Central Toiyabe and Excelsior Mountains.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Would you just push the microphone down, please.

STATEMENT OF BETH HEGGNESS, RENO, NV

Ms. HEGGNESS. My name is Beth Heggness and I live in Reno.

Senator Hecht, if a wilderness designation means, and I quote your recent newsletter, "No roads, no recreational vehicles, no ski lifts, no eating establishments," unquote, then I'm all for more of it in Nevada, because there would also be clean air, wildlife, and an untainted watershed to support all living things, including us humans who have the responsibility to take care of our home, the Earth.

I can go many places in Nevada to find ski lifts and eating establishments. I want my children and grandchildern and their children to be able to go to a place where they can know the quiet of an undisturbed wilderness, where they can know the wonder of having a deer quietly visit their campsite at dawn. Because once there are roads, ski lifts, and restaurants, the lands will never be the same.

I believe that to preserve our beautiful multiple-use areas in the West that we must designate wilderness, support areas, protecting the watersheds from sewage and pollutants, such as auto exhaust, is critical to the preservation of forest and wildlife habitat everywhere. Therefore, I urge your support of Representative Harry Reid's legislation H.R. 3302.

Particularly, Mr. Hecht, I'll never forget my 2-year-old son's shouts of delight as he rode downhill on my back through the snow fields in the Ruby Mountains. It was, "Yea, yea, yea, yea, slide mom. More, more." And although I could not imagine myself sitting in the comfort of my Reno home doing this sort of thing, when we decided to make a camping stop in the Rubies, one look at the mountains just drew us inward and upward as far as we were able to go. The Ruby Mountains deserve to be a wilderness, their beauty is so unexpected in our State that they evoke a special wonder.

Wilderness is not a privilege or a luxury. Wilderness is a necessity, sanctuary for our souls and our universe's legacy to us. Let us not abuse it or destroy it.

And I thank you.

Senator HECHT. And thank you very much.

Would you push the microphone down, please.

STATEMENT OF JUANITA TUMBLESON

Ms. TUMBLESON. Senator Hecht, Mrs. Vucanovich, committee members, I'm Juanita Tumbleson, I live in Reno now, I lived in Sparks for 55 years. Not quite a native, but almost.

Many reasons have been given for opening up the areas in Nevada to mining, travel, ranching, and for other reasons, most involving money for the person who wants these areas open further.

Can you run a marathon, Sentor Hecht?

Senator HECHT. I'm sorry?

Ms. TUMBLESON. Can you run a marathon?

Senator HECHT. Not too well.

Ms. TUMBLESON. Can you climb Mount Shasta?

Senator HECHT. I doubt it.

Ms. TUMBLESON. If your answer is no, do you sit at home and whine about it?

Senator HECHT. No.

Ms. TUMBLESON. I cannot engage in either of these activities, running or climbing, but if I cried about it for the past 60 years, I would have drowned in my tears.

Most people have fashioned their lifestyles according to what they like, what they can do, and what they can afford, whether or not they are handicapped. And they are content to live in the manner they have chosen.

I truly do not like the handicapped or the elderly to be used as an excuse to open up these beautiful areas. I am handicapped, but I am in favor of these areas being kept just as they are. And surely as they are made more accessible for one or more seemingly innocuous activities, we are just as surely they will become cluttered, dirty, or even destroyed by careless humans and they will never be so beautiful again.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

We are going to take a short 5-minute break. Now, it's roughly 12 o'clock, we have had 3 hours of testimony. All of you have been sitting here have heard it. I will not cut you short, we have told you you have 3 minutes. We have many, many panels, but please do not repeat what has already been said. And, if possible, summarize your remarks.

We will have a short 5-minute recess.

[Recess taken.]

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Russ Vawter, Ed Dunkley, Connie Bowers, Betty Snyder, Mark Kilburn, Gordon Trevett, Kathryn Wishart, and Jake Highton.

The next panel up to the front row here is panel No. 8: Dennis Doulton, Mary Neveau, Ross Smith, Walter Gibble, Barbara Scott, and Arlene Williams.

Senator HECHT. Again, all of you have been sitting here, you have heard what has been said. There is no reason to repeat it. Please try to the best of your ability to summarize your remarks.

Please start off.

STATEMENT OF RUSS VAWTER, SPARKS, NV

Mr. VAWTER. Yes; I'm Russ Vawter, and I'm a 27-year citizen of the State of Nevada. I'm a private pilot and four-wheeler. I own a shop called Nevada Four-Wheel Drive in Sparks, NV.

Thank you, Senator Hecht, for allowing us to speak on behalf of the four-wheelers and those associated with them in our area.

I'm a part of a large group of tax-paying citizens who are opposed to the closure of their public lands. These closures will have social and economic effects on a four-wheeler in our area.

Many four-wheelers are handicapped and can access these lands only by way of their vehicles. This is the way they choose to go in. Many of these groups were injured at time of war while putting their lives on the line to protect the rights that they enjoy. We cannot shut these people out. Many four-wheelers have relocated to our fine State because of closures in other States.

I am in the business to furnish the four-wheeler with products. My business will be affected by these land closures as well as those people supply other services and products.

These folks all pay taxes to our fine Government. Taxes which may be used for betterment of our State, may not be available if these people lose their livelihood.

Many four-wheeler's jobs depend on our public lands. Four-wheelers help to maintain public lands in the way of club cleanup days. The four-wheelers is a person who donates of his time to his search for lost hikers, downed aircraft, and fellow back country enthusiasts.

I definitely want somebody out looking for me if I have to set my airplane down in an area, and nobody can go out in a vehicle to look for me. A four-wheeler is a person who devotes his time to these aspects.

Four-wheelers enjoy and help protect what is rightfully and morally theirs, that is the right to use of public lands.

I totally believe, Senator Hecht, that H.R. 3302 is a way to take away what is rightfully that of the Nevada citizen, our public lands, and strongly oppose passage of H.R. 3302.

Senator Hecht, I am in favor of bill S. 722, and wish to thank you for this fair legislation.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please pass the microphone down and identify yourself and go right on.

STATEMENT OF CONNIE BOWERS

Ms. BOWERS. My name is Connie Bowers and I'm a native Nevadan. I was raised in a remote part of the State. It was 80 miles from the nearest town, 40 miles of that was gravel road. I grew up in an area that takes a special type of people that can survive in it, and I speak with understanding and utmost respect of our Nevada wilderness.

I'm speaking in behalf of Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski, which my husband and I own and operate. It's based out of Lamoille, NV in Elko County. As it stands, the amended Reid-Seiberling bill would cause Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski to go out of business. This will affect the livelihood of several people, as well as close an already established business.

I wholeheartedly support the Vucanovich-Laxalt-Hecht bill, which would not cause Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski to go out of business. It provides a fair compromise for the wilderness advocates preserving it for posterity, while allowing the residents and business people to continue to support their way of life as is our right as citizens of this country.

Our business is the largest helicopter ski company in the United States. We are currently operating under U.S. Forest Service permits. We access the wilderness by use of helicopters. Our clients are flown into towering ridges and peaks and are professionally guided through the back country terrain. This sport is considered by most to be the ultimate wilderness ski experience.

I will read to you an excerpt of a letter of one of our clients from Virginia:

Dear Andy, Trying to describe 3 days in Lamoille and the Ruby Mountains is not easy, to say the least. You will not be surprised to know that I had a wonderful time. I was extremely impressed with the courtesy and professionalism that charac-

terized your operation. You deal with the inherent dangers of the sport in such a fashion as to give your customers a good understanding of the risk, as well as a certain degree of confidence that they're as prepared as they can be to deal with the potential problems. As a result, and also because of the competence of your guides, the skiing is relatively carefree.

Our business promotes Elko County as a whole, and several businesses benefit from the customers that we draw from this.

Again, I repeat, the Reid-Seiberling bill would put us out of business. We don't want this to happen. This area is protected already, and we have to abide by U.S. Forest Service permits.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MARK KILBURN, RENO, NV

Mr. KILBURN. My name is Mark Kilburn, I'm a citizen of Reno.

I'm appearing before this panel in strong opposition to the overbroad wilderness bill proposed by Congressman Reid.

As a lifetime resident of the city of Reno, it has been my privilege to enjoy Nevada's outdoors with my family, a privilege that would not have been possible had the land proposed by Congressman Reid been locked up for an elite few to enjoy.

An example of this is my mother and father. My father has had open heart surgery and my mother has the dreaded disease Lou Gehrig's disease. Neither can enjoy the outdoors without the aid of motorized vehicles. Turning your back on this segment of the community is a crime.

I have been for 20 years an avid snowmobiler and supported the concept of multiple use. I have particularly opposed the designation of the Mount Rose area as wilderness, an area that I and my family have snowmobiled in and know as well as anyone in the area. That area is not indicative of the concept of wilderness. It is close to populated areas, it is not roadless, as we have heard here, it does not suffer from any public environmental problems due to multiple use, and has always had a history of multiple use.

To listen to those who feel it would be disparaged by motorized vehicles and users is to deny the history of the area, and will do nothing but pressurize adjacent areas and create a problem for the Forestry Service. The Forestry Service supports multiple use. I suppors use for all in the manner that they choose, not in the manner that a select few see fit.

Every year, our snowmobile search and rescue team rescues skiiers and hikers in the Mount Rose area. Just this year, had it not been for the ability of a snowmobile team who knew the area from recreational snowmobiling to be able to enter and know where to go in the Mount Rose area, a grandfather and his granddaughter very well may have perished.

Do not compromise the Mount Rose area to those who feel man and his god is the fantasy of life. I, as a northern Nevadan, take great exception to Members of Congress from other States, such as Ohio, sponsoring bills that tell me how I must use my lands.

Senator Hecht's bill is reasonable and fair for me and my family. Congressman Reid's bill is fair only to those special interests and radical predictors of environmental doomsday.

Also, in response to the report of the vote of the city council, that is not necessarily the view of the city of Reno, and there were no hearings to that effect that produced that resolution.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF JOHN SNYDER, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Mr. SNYDER. Senator Hecht, Representative Vucanovich, my name is John Snyder, I live at Valley Springs, CA, and I am chairman of the Public Lands Advisory Committee of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is composed of 200 member clubs in California and Nevada, with 15,000 individual and family members. Our members are primarily interested in recreational mining or rock hounding, which is the hobby collecting of gem quality semiprecious stone, both on private and public lands which can be cut and polished into beautiful stone jewelry.

Though the majority of our members reside in California, the gem stone collecting sites on public lands in the State of Nevada provide much of the high quality rought material that will become polished stone jewelry made by the rock hounds of the two States. Most of our members are past middle age and are unable to walk the great distances to pursue their rock hound hobby. Putting huge additional areas of public lands into wilderness would greatly limit the hobby collecting of all rock hounds.

Due to the prohibition of motor vehicles, we understand that only between one-half of 1 percent and up to 2 percent of the population never get into a roadless wilderness area. We question the wisdom of closing to the great majority of the population huge areas in wilderness that might better be left out of wilderness for the use of all.

We do recognize the need to protect for future generations those areas of public lands that have historical and archeological values or are environmentally sensitive. But our organization favors the multiple use concept for as much as the public lands as possible, where recreation, grazing, mining, timber production, and water conservation can be developed for the benefit of the total population.

I believe the proposed Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich wilderness legislation would be more compatible with the philosophy of our organization than the other Nevada wilderness bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Continue right along, please.

STATEMENT OF KATHRYN WISHART

Ms. WISHART. Thank you.

My name is Kathryn Wishart, and I represent no specific organization.

Senator Hecht, Representative Vucanovich, I would like to address two areas of concern. I recently received an invitation to join

the American Association of Retired Persons—that was a bit of a shock—but was followed by the greater shock of realizing that I am indeed eligible.

So, as an older Nevadan, I am concerned and perplexed that the statements attributed to the proponents of Senate bill 722 that older Nevadans would be denied access to public lands under Congressman Reid's bill passed by the House Interior Committee.

As an older Nevadan, I am much more concerned about the legacy which my children and generations of Nevadans to come will inherit.

As an older Nevadan, I really don't need to have vehicular access to almost 100 percent of Nevada's lands. As far as I can tell, the purchase of a four-wheel drive or other type of offroad vehicle does not also carry a guarantee of driving over almost every square mile of Nevada land.

As an older Nevadan, I'd rather vacation in areas which provide hot showers and flush toilets. Designation of approximately 1 percent of wilderness areas in Nevada will not jeopardize my enjoyment nor anyone else's use of Nevada lands.

My second concern is local. As a long-time resident of the city of Reno and as a member of the Reno City Council, I am acutely aware of the unprecedented growth occurring in and projected for the Truckee Meadows.

One of the most glorious and valuable tourist attractions is Mount Rose. It is also one of the most popular outdoor recreation areas for residents of the Truckee Meadows. Mount Rose also has an important and fragile ecology. I would urge that you include Mount Rose in the designated wilderness bill. l

I would also urge that you exert your leadership in designating an irreplaceable legacy to future generations of Nevadans to come by supporting Congressman Reid's bill.

Thank you for your attention.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JAKE HIGHTON, RENO, NV

Mr. HIGHTON. My name is Jake Highton, I live in Reno.

I have submitted to the subcommittee, a copy of an article that appeared in the Las Vegas Sun, January 24. Please let me make a very brief statement.

Special interests have spoken today, prowilderness, antiwilderness, but, frankly, this old cynic was moved to tears by the young people who have spoken on behalf of the wilderness. Their eloquence, in my judgment, is the most important testimony that will be presented today.

Biologist Aldo Leopold once wrote that love of the land and respect for the land are an extension of ethics. I agree. We all have ethics in our personal lives, our personal relationships. We should extend those ethics to our relationships with the land.

I also think that the wilderness is a nonpartisan issue. It is neither Republican nor Democratic. It is for all the people forever.

I respectively urge the Senate to pass the House of Representatives' wilderness bill, as amended, to include the first national park in the State of Nevada.

Jefferson, in his first inaugural address in March 1801, said, "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists." In his day, Republicans meant the party opposed to the Federalist Party.

Today, I would like to paraphrase Jefferson, "On environment, on the wilderness, on national parks, we are all Republicans, we are all Democrats."

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. And your newspaper story will be a part of the record, too.

Mr. HIGHTON. Thank you very much.

[The article follows:]

[From the Las Vegas Sun, Jan. 24, 1986]

POLITICS VERSUS NEVADA'S NATIONAL PARK

(By Jake Highton, University of Navada-Reno)

Nevada is marching boldly into the 21st Century with the latest gimmicks in the gambling industry. It often remains mired in the 19th Century when it comes to matters of the soul.

One such soulful matter is a national park for the state. The idea, more than 60 years old, has been struck down repeatedly by purblind Nevada politicians.

Nevada's mining, ranching and hunting lobbies combined to kill a bill in Congress in 1924 for a Nevada national park. Those same elements are stymying a national park now even though the state has grown in population from 80,000 in 1924 to more than 800,000 today.

Once again Nevada politicians are faced with the choice of voting for posterity or clinging to the past.

A proposal for the Great Basin National Park is before the House of Representatives as an amendment to a Nevada wilderness bill. The bill provides for the first national park in Nevada.

If any state deserves a national park, it is Nevada. The state has a horrible reputation as a dumping ground for the nuclear wastes of America, for the MX emplacements no one else wants.

What relatively few people in the nation realize is that Nevada is also a state of striking beauty. It is more than sand and sage.

The site chosen for the national park, the forested Wheeler Peak-Lehman Caves area in eastern Nevada, is one of the state's glories.

Wheeler Peak rises 13,063 feet in the South Snake range. It provides magnificent vistas, especially of the broad Snake Valley in Utah. Near the base of Wheeler Peak lies an underground marvel, the Lehman Caves.

The Wheeler Peak area is a little-known national treasure. On the north side of the mountain is a glacier-carves cirque and a year-round icefield. Emerald lakes and forest trails, although at 10,000 feet, are easily accessible. A paved road reaches an elevation of 9,000 feet.

The visitor to Wheeler Peak can also see the grotesque beauty of bristlecone pines, the oldest living trees. One of the bristlecone trees at Wheeler was growing about 500 years before "Omer smote 'is bloomin' lyre.' "

It is a grossly mistaken notion that Auduboners, Sierra Clubbers and environmentalists want to lock up the land. What they really want is to preserve the wonders of nature for generations untold. They are arguing for the future.

America has suffered far too much rape, rapine and ruin of the environment. Those three Rs are not mere cliches from the angry 1960s. America has placed far too much value on monetary and material baubles to the neglect of spiritual virtues.

People desperately need places to regenerate their souls, places to relax and contemplate the majesties of nature, places to help endure the human condition.

Nevertheless, you don't have to be a political scientist to know that bills face numerous obstacles between the hopper and the president's signature. The biggest obstacle to a Nevada national park is Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.

Even if the national park proposal passes the House, the bill faces the potentially baleful opposition of Sen. Laxalt. He alone can decide the bill's fate when it is expected to reach the Senate early this year.

His party controls the Upper House. Senatorial courtesy will defer to the wishes of Laxalt, senior senator from Nevada.

Laxalt favored a Nevada national park when he was the state's lieutenant governor 20 years ago. As a U.S. senator, however, he has played the great game of politics.

But now that Senator Laxalt has announced that he will not seek re-election in 1986, he no longer has to play Nevada politics with ranchers, miners and hunters. He can legislate for the ages by approving a Great Basis National Park.

"We need the tonic of wilderness," Thoreau wrote, "to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge . . . We can never have enough of nature."

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, panel. Let's go right on.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Dennis Doulton, Mary Neveau, Ross Smith, Walter Gibble, Barbara Scott, and Arlene Williams.

And panel 9 can come up to the front row: Chris Hardt, Patti Conley, Lynn Atcheson, Douglas Miller, Hefty Sanderson, Fred Arnold, Sr., and Mr. Robert Harvey.

Senator HECHT. OK. Are you ready? Please identify yourself and start right in.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS DOULTON, RENO, NV

Mr. DOULTON. My name is Dennis Doulton, I reside in Reno.

Being a 22-year resident of this State, having worked as an exploration geologist while living here, I have had time to travel extensively in Nevada visiting 10 out of the 14 proposed wilderness areas, including the proposed national park area in Wheeler Park.

As an exploration geologist, I witnessed on numerous occasions the careless destruction of fragile desert environments, the contamination and/or depletion of scarce water supplies, and the legal manipulation and intimidation by large mining companies. I have traveled through many grazing areas, and observed firsthand a serious destruction and irreparable damage done by cattle to numererous recurring environments in this desert State.

Even though I am not currently employed as a geologist, like many of my younger colleagues, unfortunately, I spend a great deal of my time in remote regions of the State.

In my travels, it is quite disturbing to view the numerous areas scarred by roads for exploration equipment to come across the noisy and polluted drilling sites, and then to observe the actual mining pits themselves.

These open pits, which most Nevadans never see, are huge gaping holes in the Earth. They disrupt scarce water tables, create dust hazards that cover hundreds of square miles, and emanate Earth tremors and noise pollution from blasting bedrock, forever destroying the habitat of anything that was living there.

When there are people who promote this type of indiscriminate destruction, then it is time to initiate legislation to protect these wilderness areas.

I strongly support Congressman Reid's H.R. 3302 and highly recommend establishing the Great Basin National Park. The wilderness areas proposed by H.R. 3302 would constitute approximately 1½ percent of the State of Nevada. It would be ludicrous for any competent geologist to suggest the crux of the mining industry lies within this very small area.

Thank you.

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Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
And please continue right on.

STATEMENT OF WALTER GIBBLE, CARSON CITY, NV

Mr. GIBBLE. My name is Walt Gibble, I live in Carson City. And I appreciate the opportunity of being able to tell Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich why I support an extensive wilderness bill in Nevada, preferably 1½ million acres. I'd like to tell you why.

For 2 years recently I worked for the Agency for International Development in India. It was my job to try to improve oil processing by the Indian Government and private companies. And in this job, I had an opportunity to travel through most of India. And if you want to see a ravaged land—ravaged, granted, for a number of reasons—but ravaged by people so that they are in a state of poverty, look at India.

Now, granted, there are a few very small areas in India that are preserved, that are, as we say, pristine. But they are very small.

The economic pressure and the population pressure which we are starting to experience heavily in Nevada will soon make it impossible to ever designate any part of our State as a wilderness area. These are not things that can be easily resisted.

I think it's incumbent upon our politicians and Congress, who have the ability to do something now, they may be able to preserve some portion of Nevada so that we can take our kids out and say, "Well, there's a jackrabbit."

I think that it was fine today that we could see these young people in here because their children may not be able to know the Nevada that we know today. I submit that what we need is a balance in Nevada. But a balance where we have just maybe one-hundredth of our area designated for wilderness is a very poor balance. We need these areas.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ARLENE WILLIAMS, SPARKS, NV

Ms. WILLIAMS. My name is Arlene Williams, and I represent myself and my family, especially my 1½-year-old son in Sparks, NV.

And I am here today to urge you to support H.R. 3302. Why do I want you to support more acreage than you now propose? Because wilderness is not a crowded campground or a tour bus ride through spectacular scenery. There are plenty of other places to do that.

Wilderness is a different type of outdoor experience where man's world is excluded, and individuals are forced beyond the normal boundaries of their lives. And precisely because wilderness is isolation, we need more wilderness as our population grows in Nevada.

Yet, Senator and Representative, wilderness is being eaten away by those who seek profit on our lands. Land that belongs to every single person in this country, not just the ranchers who live nearby or the mining companies who wish to exploit its resources.

But why is wilderness so vital to America if it can be enjoyed by so few at a time? Simply because all of us will benefit from the learning and the healing work that goes on in the wilderness.

I have seen inner-city kids change so drastically from being in the wilderness. I have taken a crew of high school students who couldn't work and who couldn't get along and I have taken them into the wilderness and seen a transformation in a day that could only be called a miracle.

A wilderness teaches leadership, self-reliance, responsibility, and cooperation. A wilderness is a place for inspiration and a place to look deep into oneself to hear God's voice. Beyond a doubt, in wilderness a power greater than man is encountered. So many of our youths, indeed, adults, need this type of challenge in their lives.

And when someone grows from a wilderness experience, how many burglaries, drug addictions, or drunk driving deaths do we eliminate? How much more peace do we get in our lives because others have found something strong in the wilderness?

The seven Americans who died in space 3 weeks ago would understand the need for wilderness. Space is wilderness. And if NASA asked for more civilian volunteers tomorrow, I bet there would be a tremendous flood of applications. But though so many of us need this challenge, we won't ever get into space; and we won't have to if you invest in wilderness for all of us.

Wilderness will give back to our future over and over and over again strong creative leaders and solid balanced citizens, and that's far greater return than our Nation will see if this land is exploited for profit by a few.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue right on.

STATEMENT OF ROSS SMITH, RENO, NV

Mr. SMITH. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, my name is Ross Smith. I represent only myself at this hearing. I live in Reno.

At present, I am a professor of mineral processing engineering at the University of Nevada. I am a long-time Nevada resident, having received my B.S. degree in mining engineering from the University of Nevada in 1950, and I have spent my entire professional career in the mineral industries in Government, trade association, and industrial, and university positions. I have published over 50 technical papers in my field of expertise.

At the same time, I am a lifetime backpacker, having gone on my first backpacking trip in 1940. I have backpacked in most of the Western States and in western Canada, and am familiar with all manners of wilderness areas.

I feel, therefore, that I am qualified to judge the quality of wilderness areas and also to judge tradeoffs between mining development of such areas and designation of the areas as formal wilderness.

In Nevada, at the present time, there is a certain amount of mining, primarily of precious metals and industrial minerals. However, Nevada is by no means at the very top of the list of nonfuel

mineral producing States. In fact, according to the 1983 U.S. Bureau of Mines Yearbook, it ranks 12th among the States. This is spite of availability of most of the substantial Federal lands in the State to mining, and the fact that mineral deposits are more exposed here than in the rest of the United States.

There are demonstrably outstanding wild places in this State. For example, all of the 21 Forest Service areas recommended for formal designation as wilderness or national park status by conservationists are fine.

In my opinion, the conflicts with mining on at least these 21 areas are minimal. Claims are few on most of the areas. On several areas where more claims exist, most could be kept out of the wilderness by careful boundary adjustment. As, for example, in the Quinn Canyon and Excelsior areas.

Frankly, I am surprised at the opposition to wilderness designation for these areas from prospecting and mining groups, since there is little hard evidence of significant economic mineral deposits in any of the areas. Major opposition to increasing Nevada's designated wilderness acreage beyond a token amount comes from Nevada's recreational miners and prospectors and from some mining groups.

This opposition to all but the most token wilderness acreage is in contrast to the attitude toward the recent Arizona wilderness bill taken by Mr. C.J. Hansen, president of the Arizona Mining Association. In the American Mining Congress Journal, November 1984, Hansen praised the Arizona wilderness bill, which added 762,000 acres to that State's previously existing 1,359,000 acres of formal wilderness. He called the Arizona bill "a reasonably fair result," even though it included five times more land than the smaller of the two proposed Nevada wilderness bills. Further, the Arizona Association willingly negotiated to adjust boundaries in order to minimize conflicts.

According to Hansen, we have to set priorities and really focus on those areas that have the strongest mineral possibilities, those that we can support with proof of past production or drilling results. If our data tell us that a proposed area has only marginal mineral potential, let's be big enough to admit it. The Arizona group even prepared its own seven-volume study of the mining history of the land parcels under consideration, using whatever hard evidence was available.

Where is such a publication from our mining groups? Clearly, the present 64,700 acres of designated wilderness in Nevada is too little to protect Nevada's wild inheritance.

I support H.R. 3302 and urge that the amount of designated wilderness in this bill be increased to include the additional six or seven areas plus acreage and additional acreage in the Ruby Mountains.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

February 13, 1986

My name is Ross W. Smith. I represent only myself at this hearing. I live at 1730 O'Farrell St., Reno, NV. At present I am a professor of Mineral Processing Engineering in the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada, Reno. I am a longtime Nevada resident, having received my B.S. in Mining Engineering from the University of Nevada in 1950. I have spent my entire professional career in the mineral industries in government, trade association, industrial and university positions. I have published over 50 technical papers in my fields of expertise.

At the same time I am a lifetime backpacker, having gone on my first backpacking trip in 1940. I have backpacked in most of the western states and in western Canada and am familiar with all manner of wilderness areas, formally designated and de facto. I am a member of a number of conservation organizations, although I do not speak for any of them here.

I feel I am well qualified to judge the quality of wilderness areas and also to judge tradeoffs between mining development of such areas and designation of the areas as formal wilderness.

In Nevada there is a certain amount of mining at the present time, primarily of precious metals and industrial minerals. However, Nevada is by no means one of the very top non-fuel mineral producing states. In fact, according to the 1983 U.S. Bureau of Mines Yearbook it ranks 12th among the states; this in spite of availability of most of the substantial federal lands in the

state to mining and the fact that mineral deposits are more exposed here (i.e. not covered by vegetation) than in most of the U.S.

There are demonstrably outstanding wild places in this state. For example, all of the 20 Forest Service areas recommended for formal designation as wilderness or national park status by conservationists are very fine.

In my opinion the conflicts with mining on at least the 20 Forest Service areas aforementioned are minimal. Claims are few on most of these areas. On several areas where more claims exist, most could be kept out of the wilderness by careful boundary adjustment (as, for example, in the Quinn Canyon and Excelsior areas.) To put things in proper perspective, it is my opinion that the recently designated Trinity Alps Wilderness in California alone has more mineral potential than all of the 20 Nevada areas combined.

Frankly, I'm surprised at the opposition to wilderness designation for these areas from prospecting and mining groups, since there is little hard evidence of significant economic mineral deposits in any of the areas. Major opposition to increasing Nevada's designated wilderness acreage beyond a token amount comes from Nevada's recreational miners and prospectors and from the Nevada Mining Association. This opposition to all but the most token wilderness acreage is in contrast to the attitude toward the Arizona wilderness bill taken by Mr. C. J. Hansen, President of the Arizona Mining Association. In the American Mining Congress Journal, November, 1984 (Vol. 70, No. 22), Hansen praised the Arizona wilderness bill, which added

750,000 acres to that state's previously existing 1,359,000 acres of formal wilderness. He called the Arizona bill "a reasonably fair result," even though it includes five times more land than the proposed smaller Nevada wilderness bill. Further, the Arizona association willingly negotiated to adjust boundaries in order to minimize conflicts. According to Hansen "We have to set priorities and really focus on those areas that have the strongest mineral possibilities - those that we can support with proof of past production or drilling results. . . . If our data tell us that a proposed area has only marginal mineral potential, let's be big enough to admit it." (underlining mine)

The Arizona Mining Association has a different attitude from their Nevada counterparts. The Arizona group even prepared its own seven volume study of the mining history of the land parcels under consideration, using whatever hard evidence was available on the parcels. All this in spite of the fact that Arizona's mining industry is considerably larger than Nevada's, and Arizona already had twenty-one times more wilderness acreage than we do. Where is such a fair-minded approach and such a detailed study from the Nevada Mining Association?

Clearly the present 64,700 acres of designated wilderness in Nevada is too little to protect Nevada's wild inheritance. I support H.R. 2200 and urge that the amount of designated wilderness in this bill be increased to include the additional six areas plus additional acreage in the Ruby Mountains.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let's just go right along with the next panel. Will you please come up?

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Chris Hardt, Patti Conley, Lynn Atcheson, Douglas Miller, Hefty Sanderson, Fred Arnold, and Robert Harvey.

The next panel that should come up to the front row seats, panel No. 10, is David Cowperthwaite, Don Devato, Eric McClary, Jan Nachlinger, and Tina Fields.

Senator HECHT. Are you ready to start?

Mr. BYROM. Yes, sir.

Senator HECHT. Please identify yourslelf and start right in.

STATEMENT OF JACK BYROM, VICE PRESIDENT, ENGINEERING, SIERRA PACIFIC POWER CO.

Mr. BYROM. Good afternoon. My name is Jack Byrom, I'm from Sierra Pacific Power Co. I'm the vice president of the engineering division. I am responsible for the land and right of way acquisition and for our participation in lands use planning.

There are 939,000 acres now under consideration for Forest Service wilderness designation, as well as the 174,000-acre Great Basin Park. Sierra Pacific has small but significant boundary concerns with these proposals. We request boundary adjustments to the Boundary Peak, Currant Mountain, and Excelsior proposed wilderness areas to allow use of the utility corridors by keeping those boundaries above the 8,000-foot elevation. We request a change in the north boundary of the Great Basin National Park also to allow the use of an important utility corridor.

However, our deeper concern is the aggregate effect of the growing list of off-limit land in the State. About 86 percent of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government. Sierra Pacific deals with this situation daily as our operations are constantly affected by Federal land management. My intent in stressing this is to convey to you that land use choices made by the Federal Government has significant and sometimes adverse impacts upon the utility industry.

I wish to make two points: One, that most lands remaining in the Federal ownership in Nevada are appropriately managed under multiple use concepts; and, two, the aggregate effect of increasing single-use designations of Federal land adversely impacts the utility industry.

Most of Nevada is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. These agencies have a difficult task, and Sierra Pacific sometimes finds itself at odds with their policies. However, we understand and participate in the multiple use management process.

I realize at a hearing such as this, testimony must be confined to the specific issue. I contend, however, that designation of Nevada lands for wilderness and other restrictive uses must be considered on an aggregate basis. The Congress has provided in the National Environmental Policy Act that Federal decisions must consider the aggregate impact of related actions. We respectfully request that

you fully consider the combined impacts of the various land use allocation proposals concerning Nevada.

Attached to the text of the testimony are maps which illustrate graphically the extent of restricted use areas in Nevada. We recommend that most Federal land in Nevada be retained in multiple-use status, and only those most pristine areas be considered for restrictive wilderness designation and that our transmission corridors and other needs be recognized in the final boundaries and legislations.

And I think you should be applauded for coming to Nevada and listening to Nevadans today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Byrom follows:]

TESTIMONY

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

Before The

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER,
and RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Regarding

SENATE BILL 722

February 13, 1986
Reno, Nevada

Mr. Chairman, and honorable members of the committee, my name is Jack Byrom, and I am Vice President of Engineering for Sierra Pacific Power Company. In my position, I am responsible for overseeing the acquisition of lands for new projects, management of lands, development of utility corridors, and participation in land use planning. Please allow me to begin by welcoming you to our state, and by thanking you for making yourselves available to conduct this hearing.

Sierra Pacific Power Company is a fast-growing investor owned utility, with a service territory of approximately 50,000 square miles serving nearly 300,000 customers in northern Nevada and northeastern California. This includes the Reno-Sparks area, which is one of the nation's very fastest growing population centers. The rapid growth and development of our area demands that Sierra Pacific continue to plan as far as possible into the future, to assure the continued availability of reasonably priced and readily available electrical energy for our customers. Gentlemen, we must plan ahead very carefully. Both the statutes of the State of Nevada, and the simple economic realities of the energy business demand it.

Nine hundred thirty-nine thousand acres are now under consideration for Forest Service wilderness designation, as well as the 174,000 acre Great Basin Park. Sierra Pacific has specific boundary concerns with the proposals for some areas; we request boundary adjustments to the Boundary Peak, Currant Mountain, and Excelsior proposed wilderness areas to allow use of utility corridors by keeping the boundaries above 8,000 feet above sea level. We request a change in the north boundary of the Great Basin National Park proposal, also to allow use of an important corridor. However, our deeper concern is the aggregate effect of the growing list of off-limits lands in our state.

According to statistics compiled by the Department of the Interior, about 86% of Nevada is owned by the Federal government, by far the highest percentage of any state in the Union. Sierra Pacific deals with this situation daily, as our operations constantly affect, and are affected by, Federal land management. I do not intend to address the issue of whether this is right or wrong, good or bad; that is not within the scope

of this hearing. My only intent in stressing this point is to convey to this distiguished panel that the land use choices made by the Federal government have significant and sometimes adverse impacts upon our ability to fulfill our obligations as a major energy supplier. I wish to make two main points. One, that lands remaining in Federal ownership are most appropriately managed under multiple use concepts, and two, the aggregate effect of increasing single-use designations of Federal land adversely impact our ability to do business.

Most of Nevada is managed by two Federal agencies; the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Generally, they are chartered with managing the public domain and national forests, respectively, under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The decisions-makers of these agencies have a difficult and often controversial task, and quite frankly, gentlemen, Sierra Pacific sometimes finds itself at odds with these agencies' policies. And very often we do not win the argument, and that sometimes costs our customers money, or convenience, or both. However, we understand, and can live with, the multiple use concept. When our use of Federal lands is in question, we are willing to participate fairly in the multiple use planning and decision-making process.

Many Federal lands are already "off limits" to multiple uses. Military reservations, National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, test ranges, and similar areas comprise 9.7% of Nevada's total area. These lands are, for the most part, unavailable for use by the general public, including Sierra Pacific. Further, even if important statewide public needs are at stake, the state is not able to breach the wall of Federal sovereignty. If the land was private, state needs could be met by eminent domain authority. If the land is managed for multiple use, state needs can be met through agency processes. When the land is completely dedicated to single, restrictive uses, the businesses and citizens of Nevada must bear increased costs and decreased opportunities.

I realize that in a hearing such as this, testimony must be confined to the specific issue at hand, and not expanded to unrelated matters. I contend, however, that designation of Nevada lands for wilderness, parks, and other strictly preservation oriented uses must be considered on an aggregate basis. The concept of aggregate affects of individual actions

is not new. The Congress of which you distinguished gentlemen are a part fully recognized this concept, and provided in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that Federal decision-makers must consider the aggregate impacts of related actions, not just the impacts of individual actions. We respectfully request that you fully consider the combined potential impacts of the various current and impending land use allocation bills concerning Nevada.

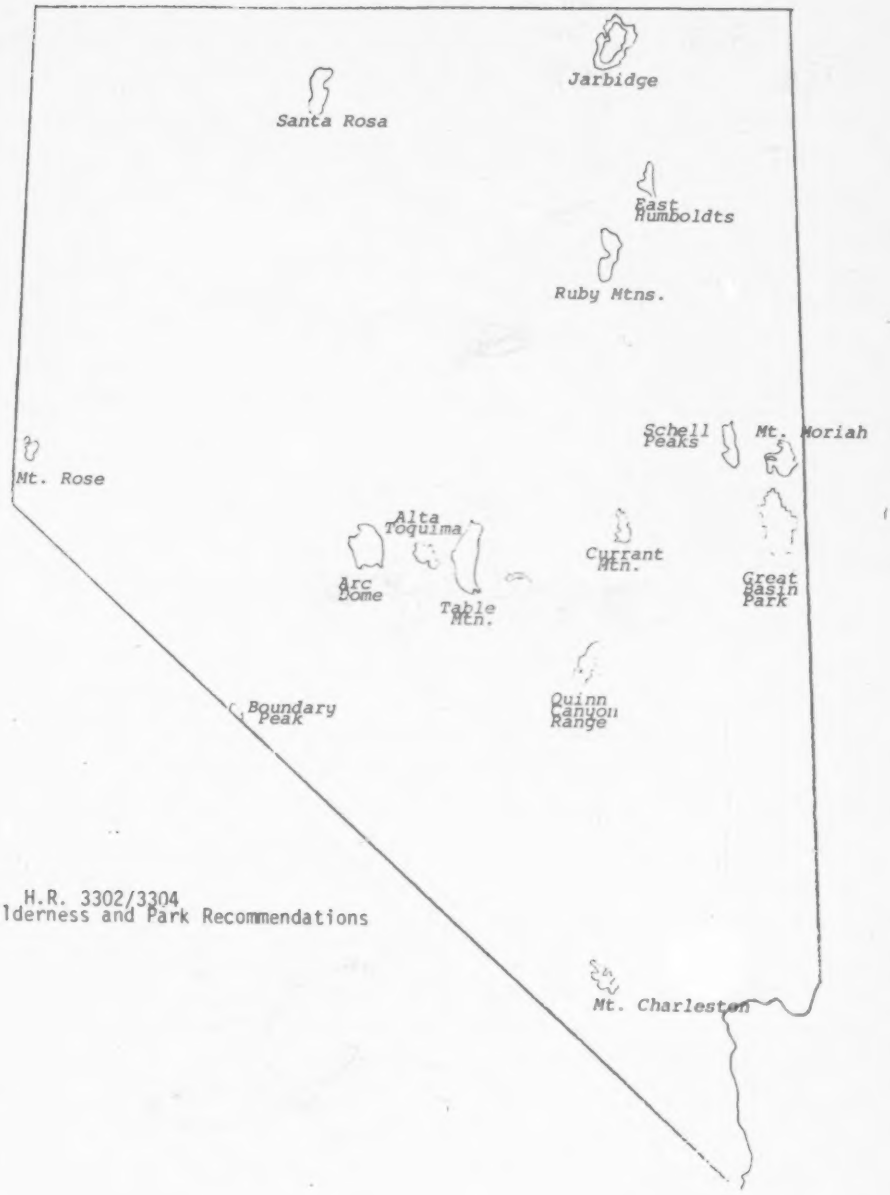
Attached to the text of this testimony are several maps. These maps show the extent of wilderness and proposed wilderness areas. Map "A" shows the wilderness areas proposed by H.R. 3302 in its current form as we understand it. Map "B" shows potential wilderness, now classified as wilderness study areas by the BLM, as well as the H.R. 3302 areas and other reservations. As you can see, if even a major portion of all of these areas becomes permanent wilderness, it will definitely impact our ability to site new generation facilities, develop Nevada's sparse water resources, and construct transmission lines to transport energy both within and outside our state. Map "C" shows our needed adjustment to the park boundary.

Useable power plant sites, water sources, and transmission corridors are few. The aggregate effect of designation of even a portion of the proposed BLM and Forest Service wilderness, plus the Great Basin Park, may serve to destroy the viability of some potential plant sites and several important transmission corridors. Added to existing and proposed military and other withdrawals, these allocations will adversely impact Nevada's future relative to the availability of economical electrical energy.

Gentlemen, we recommend that as much Federal land in Nevada as possible be retained in multiple use status, a time-tried and effective form of land management, and that only the most pristine areas be considered for any sort of preservation designation.

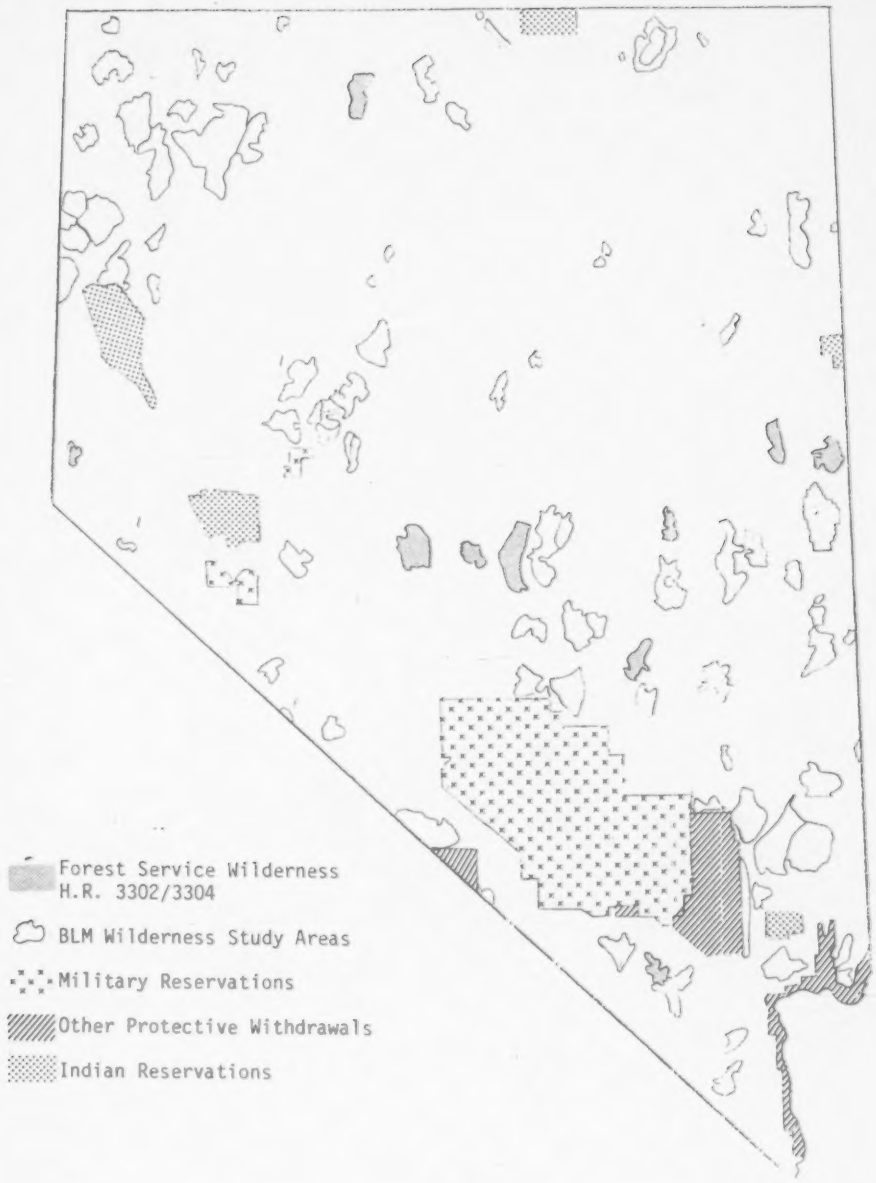
Mr. Chairman, please accept my thanks to you and your committee for allowing me to testify before you today. I respectfully request your consideration of Sierra Pacific's position, and in closing, I would only say that I would be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to have addressed.

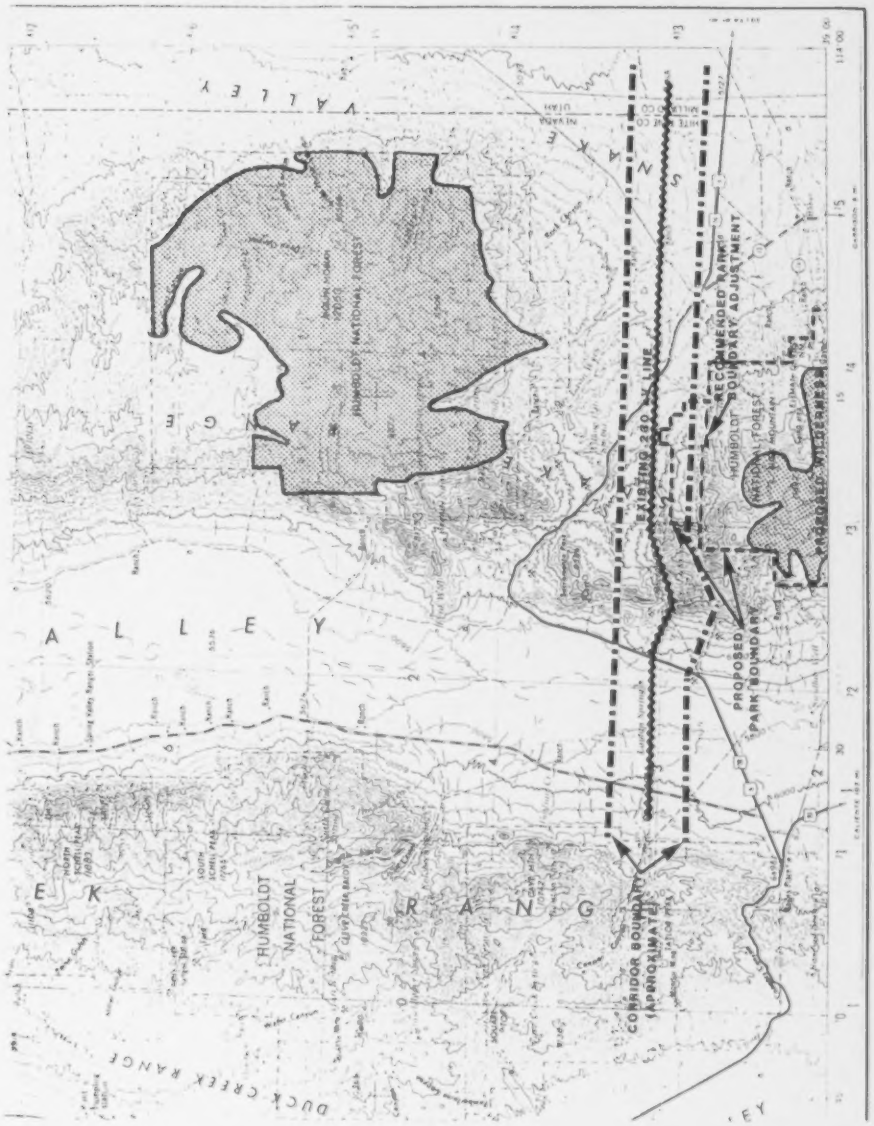
NEVADA



H.R. 3302/3304
Wilderness and Park Recommendations

NEVADA


Forest Service Wilderness
H.R. 3302/3304
BLM Wilderness Study Areas
Military Reservations
Other Protective Withdrawals
Indian Reservations


VALLEY
RANGE
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
EXISTING 230 KV LINE
RECOMMENDED HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT
PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
CORRIDOR BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)
A L L E Y
E K
R A N G
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
DUCK CREEK RANGE

Senator HECHT. Even though you compliment me, your time is up.

Next.

STATEMENT OF M. DOUGLAS MILLER, PAST COMMANDER, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, POST NO. 8617

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman and Senator Hecht and Mrs. Vucanovich, I am M. Douglas Miller. And I am speaking as past commander of the Nevadans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 8617. I am a senior citizen, age 75 years, civil engineering and hydraulics consultant, residing in the territory of Nevada for over 27 years. My birthplace is in Dallas, OR in 1911.

I have toured, traveled, and studied U.S. Forest Service so-called wilderness lands of Nevada, if there be such, and the lockup to eternity of lands in wilderness by the act of 1964.

And, Mr. Chairman, most of my information has been covered by other people. I will submit that as part of my written statement and then I would like to make some extemporaneous remarks.

Senator HECHT. Please. Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. I will continue.

The Federal statutes require a mineral survey. This has not been completed. A walk-through type of examination was the only examination made. We believe the Federal Government has been negligent by not having a thorough mineral examination made to all proposed wilderness withdrawals. I have been involved with mineral study deals for over 10 years, and 2 years ago was pointed by the Secretary of Interior to serve as a public-at-large member of the Bureau of Land Management Carson Advisory Board to study and make recommendations of the public lands of the Carson district of Nevada.

The Federal Government agencies are strangling the State of Nevada with its many land withdrawals, Navy, Air Corps, Army, wildlife, and this has not been covered by anyone in this audience today, and I am emphasizing that the tremendous amount of lands withdrawn already must be seriously considered by this committee, and we do not support the Reid-Seiberling bill.

I happened to be at the meeting down at the end of that tour, and I heard Congressman John Seiberling state to me that if we did not present a wilderness bill, that he would do it for us. That gave me the inclination there that outsiders were working against our best interests here in Nevada. I've been here for 27 years and I resent that.

I'm a mining geologist and I spent most of my time working and using the public lands. The State of Nevada's 86 percent owned. Our natural resources, Senator, our strength of this Nation, can we afford to lock it up? They say public lands. These are lands that we have been exploring minerals for 100 years, and it's time now that the Congress recognize the State of Nevada and use our basis for multiple use and stay on multiple use and cut out this large-scale withdrawal.

We oppose the Reid-Seiberling bill in all of its aspects.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Miller follows:]

To: United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Honorable Chic Hecht, U.S. Senator for Nevada

February 13,1986

Reno Nevada Testimony on U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Withdrawal in Nevada.

Mr. Chairman, Members and Staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We Support the Legislation as recommended by the Nevada State Legislature in AJR-1, 1985 Nevada Legislature and will not protest the"Lock-up" in Wilderness of 137,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service Administered Public Lands in Nevada.

I am, M. Douglas Miller, speaking as Past Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars post # 8617; A Senior Citizen, Age 75 years, a Civil engineering and Hydraulics Consultant, residing in the Territory of Nevada for over 27 years; Birth place, Dallas, Polk County, Oregon February 19, 1911.

I have toured, traveled and studied the U.S. Forest Service so called wilderness lands of Nevada, if there be be such, and the "Lock-up" to eternity of lands in Wilderness by the Act of 1964 and its restrictive provisions for non-use of motorized vehicles on lands we have been driving upon and into for years, as hunters, cattlemen and prospectors for minerals under the Multiple-use theory that all the public lands of the West were for everyones use and enjoyment. Very little of our lands in Nevada are truly Wilderness, only barren and rugged. Access to most of the arid lands are by motorized 4 wheel drive and trac motorized vehicles due to long distances of travel to reach them. There should not be aby restrictions placed on the lands that prevent the disables, the Veterans and Senior Citizens here in Nevada as well as Tourists who visit Nevada.

How can we justify and tolerate these large "Wilderness Lock-ups" of so much of our mineralized lands? The U.S. Congress has made a Shameful mistake in placing so much emphasis, money and time on a single purpose, Exclusive use project which has been promoted, Lobbied, and drawn up by the Wilderness Societies and Sierra Club for their own exclusive use by such a small segment of the American Population. We believe it should be

(Continued on page 2)

Page 2 continued, Testimony by M. Douglas Miller, 2/13/86

maintained and administered as"Multiple use"Lands for the good of all of the people, and for the total use and development of our natural resources for the benefit of all of the people of the United States.

I also wish to remind this Committee that the Nevada State Legislature in 1985 passed a Resolution, AJR-1, recommending the Wilderness in Nevada be limited to 137,000 Acres and Also that 16 of the 17 Counties of the State of Nevada, by Resolution stated they did not want any Wilderness in their Counties. These are representatives of the People here in Nevada, elected by the residents of these Counties. These two above should give the Federal Government a clue that Nevada does not want Wilderness"Lock-up".

The Federal Statutes require a MINERAL SURVEY. This has not been completed. A walk thru type of examination was the only examination made. We believe the Federal Government has been negligent by not having a thorough mineral examination made of all proposed wilderness withdrawals. I have been involved in Wilderness studies for over ten years and two years ago was appointed by the Secretary of Interior to serve as "Public at Large" member on the Bureau of Land Management Carson Advisory Board to study and make recommendations on the Public Lands in the Carson District of Nevada.

The Federal Government Agencies are strangling the State of Nevada with its many land withdrawals such as the NAVY, Air CORPS, ARMY, Wild Life Management areas and others, which threatens the Nevada Citizens existence as a State.This must be stopped immediately since 86% of Nevada is Federally Administered we are under the thumb of Bureau management, not State,as a State. We must soon reinstate the "Sage brush Rebellion" and have a good look at the SUBVERSIVE elements working within our Government trying to strangle our very existence as a State. Outside Legislators such as John Seiberling from Ohio should attend to their own businesses and keep their influence out of Nevada. We do not think the Federal Government has done a very good job on Wilderness here.

Respectfully submitted, M. Douglas Miller, 4070 Bigelow Dr., Carson City,Nv

M. Douglas Miller

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Let's continue right on.

STATEMENT OF FRED ARNOLD, RENO, NV

Mr. ARNOLD. Senator Chic Hecht, Representative Barbara Vucanovich, members of the committee, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Fred Arnold. I was born in Sparks, NV, in 1934. I have been a licensed contractor in this State for the past 20 years. In this instance, I am speaking to you as an amateur scientist.

I would direct your attention to the large topographical map here against the wall. That's mine. I have presented copies of my report on a large meteorite impact crater that's centered nearby in Nevada.

At a point in time a meteorite over a mile in diameter cut a swatch through the Earth at West Lake, Middle Lake, and Massacre Lake. Then it rolled over to Fish Creek Mountain, and turned in place, leaving a track over 3 miles long. At that point it exploded. It created the mountain chains—I brought the map to show you the mountain chains, the parenthetical mountains that enclose the blast center. My map shows the pattern of the mountains that exist today.

The Earth's rotation distorted the annular crater rim into north/south mountain chains. Foucault proved that the Earth rotates with a pendulum. The same Foucault effect changed the annular crater into the mountains that paralleled the Earth's axis of rotation.

This represents one of the greatest epics in geoscience. And the professionals that have examined this area, they did not even see this. I have been playing with this, exploring this for 25 years.

OK. The bolide, the meteorite, I call it the bolide, created fire opals in Fish Creek Mountain, it also created the fire opals in Virgin Valley. Now, potentially the area from Boulder Lake to the Elport Desert and a hundred miles on either side of the bolide's path potentially could have fire opals, previous opals.

And the report by the U.S. Bureau of Mines doesn't mention that at all. The environmentalists want to designate the area as wilderness. This in effect would prevent the study and exploration of the region by the scientists of the world. I am saying this area needs to be studied, it needs to be looked at and studied thoroughly.

If we designated this as wilderness, we could never put in the roads, we could never drill and examine the substrates. We would be locked into a wilderness.

OK. I think we should maintain this area in the public domain, multiple-use lands. And I won't give 1 acre to wilderness, not 1 acre.

OK. You have the copy of my report, and I would be of any assistance I could.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Arnold follows:]

1540 Dayton Way
Reno, Nevada 89502
February 13, 1986

Senator Hecht, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Fred Arnold, born in Sparks, Nevada in 1934. I have been a licensed Nevada contractor for the past twenty years but in this instance I am speaking as an amateur scientist. I am presenting you with copies of my report on a large meteoritic crater centered near Vya, Nevada.

At a point in time a meteorite over a mile in diameter cut a swath through the earth at West Lake, Middle Lake, and Massacre Lake. It then rolled over to Fish Creek Mountain and turned in place leaving a mountain almost three miles long prior to its explosion.

My map shows the pattern of the mountain chains extant today. The earth's rotation distorted the annular crater rim into north/south mountain chains. Foucault proved the earth rotates with a pendulum. The same Foucault effect changes annular craters into the mountains which parallel the earth's axis of rotation. This represents one of the greatest epics in geoscience. The bolide created fire opals in Fish Creek Mountain and Virgin Valley. The area holds the potential of being the largest fire opal deposit in the world.

The environmentalists want to designate this area as a "wilderness". This, in effect, would prevent the study and exploration of this region by scientists of the world. Land designated as "public domain" are fully protected by the Organic Act; consequently, there is no need to change any land designated "public domain"--no, not one acre.

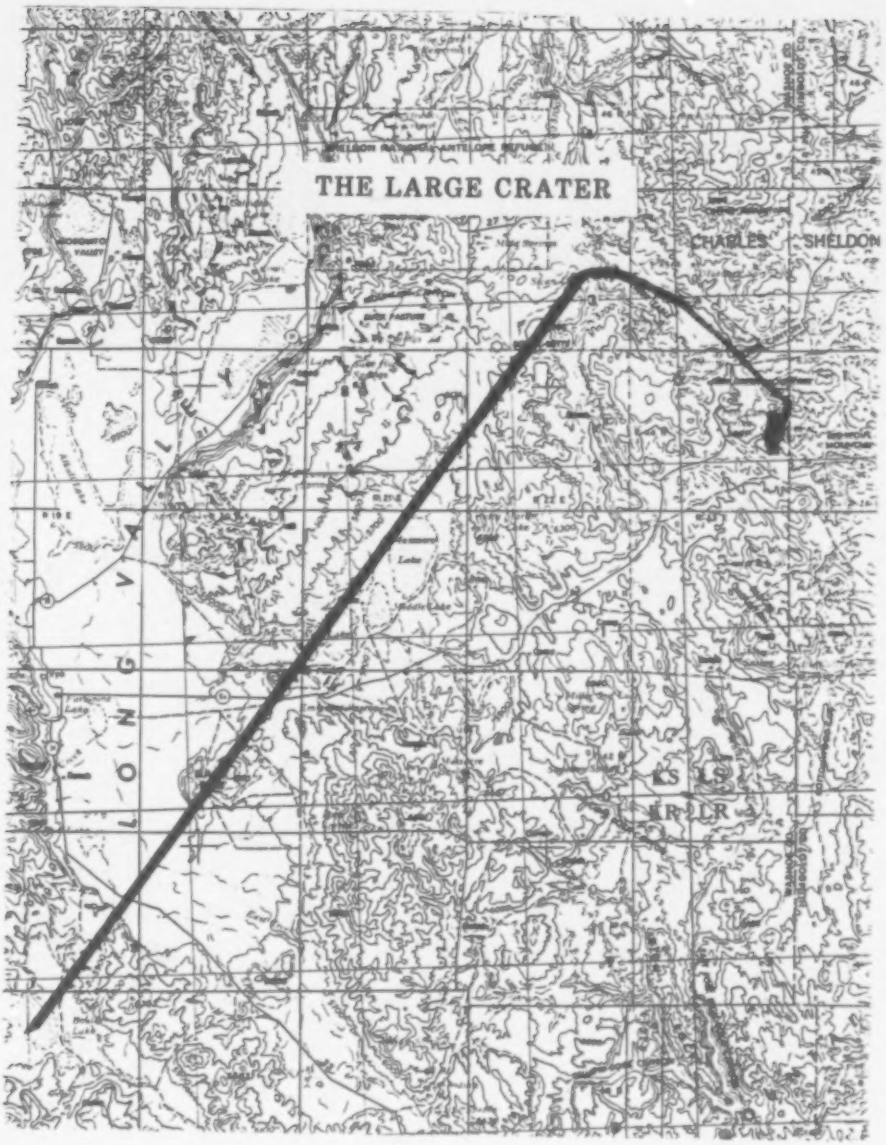
My report details the most important finds which I have made. I would be happy to answer any questions, assist the Commission members, or be of service in any way I can. I can be reached at (702) 322-9311.

Respectfully,

Fred Arnold

FRED ARNOLD

FA/ltp
Enclosure


THE LARGE CRATER
CHARLES
SHELDON
LONG VALLEY
LS
LR
LR

The Large Crater

by

Fred Arnold

I began writing this paper as an open letter to the Economic Development Authority of Northern Nevada but completed it as a report outlining my explorations in northern Washoe County in an effort to prevent a wilderness designation for that region. I believe many people would like to know about the discovery of a large meteoritic impact crater in northern Washoe County. My report advances some new ideas about the geology and evolution which occurred in this region. The correct interpretation of various geological structures could be very important to Nevadans because this region could contribute to the economy of Nevada as well as the adjoining states if this information were properly distributed.

In 1961 I had the good fortune to draw an antelope tag for the northwest corner of the state. We headed towards the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge to find a trophy prong horn. Since I had never been in northern Washoe County, it was all new scenery and I found the terrain quite different. Though I was hunting for antelope, I was witnessing the strangest topography I had ever seen. Lava rim rocks were flat and stretched for fifteen to twenty miles in a straight line. If one looked at the countryside with the unaided eye, the lava sweeps went on for miles and miles. However, the detail as seen through an eight power rifle scope made the lava sweeps and rims even more incredible.

How does one account for a straight lava rim or a sweeping lava flow that can be followed for ten or fifteen miles? I had never heard of a flat volcano. The rock over which I was walking was burned, black, and full of holes. I though of fusion. Across Long Valley the base of the mountain reached up to the flat lava rim and the top of the mountain had the appearance of being cut as with a scythe.

I soon spotted a white and orange speck over a mile away and the hunt was on. A little after lunch I had bagged a near-trophy size prong horn and the hunt was over. Because of the extremely hot weather that late August, we immediately broke camp and headed back to Reno to keep the meat from spoiling.

On our way out I noticed cone-shaped rocks near Vya and in 49 Canyon. I had been reading the August 1961 issue of Scientific American ("Astroblemes", pg. 50) which featured pictures of

shatter cones. It is the same principle which applies if a rock hits the windshield of a car; it creates a shatter cone in the glass. The cones at Vya are thirty to fifty feet high.

After a stop in Cedarville, California, we headed up Cedar Canyon where I saw a layered sedimentary formation that was pitched up out of the horizontal plain. When sediments are laid down in lakes or oceans, the bedding is always horizontal. Consequently, when horizontally stratified layers are pitched up at an angle, you can be fairly certain that some geological occurrence has taken place to uplift that particular formation. The uplift I saw in the road cut in Cedar Canyon would indicate that such an occurrence had come from the Vya-49 Canyon area.

The geological formations I witnessed during that trip has drawn me back to the Vya area for nearly twenty-five years. I had seen features indicating the presence of a meteoritic impact. I had identified shatter cones and uplifted sedimentaries. I would return again and again beginning the very next weekend. Since the only gas station in the region is in Cedarville, I will begin with observations from that point. Looking west at that point (Cedarville), the mountains appear to be a gigantic crater rim and we seemed to be standing inside a giant crater.

The rim is separated into three sections and is about five miles long. We drove north and then turned south looking for more of the uplifted mountains that dominate the view from Cedarville but there were no more. The uplifted section simply ends although that feature on the map shows the uplifted section projecting out from the Warner Mountains into Surprise Valley. Eventually we searched the entire region for more crater rims like those in the Cedarville section but to no avail.

We proceeded to 49 Canyon to examine the cones. There were no water marks, holes, vents, or fissures to suggest a water geyser origin. Some cones were dark-colored, some a white sandstone, and some a combination of dark and light. The dark cones are largely of volcanic materials. Both size and shape indicate that tremendous over-pressure would have been needed to create those cones. The pictures in Scientific American showed striations on the sides of the cones exactly resembling the cones at Vya.

Most shatter cones were broken out of rock stock; these cones appear to be formed by compaction. Some cones had a rock on top that concentrated the pressure and formed a cone below. There were conic voids in some cones as if the volcanic pummice compressed rather than compacted into a solid cone. Altogether there must be several thousand cones in the region. They are a definite clue to a meteoritic impact.

Eight miles east of Vya is a cone-shaped hill six hundred feet high called Painted Point. When I first saw it jutting up from the sandy plain in Long Valley, I thought it to be spectacular. The top is a black lava cap seventy-five to eighty feet thick. The next layer is a fiery-red sandstone approximately five or six feet thick. Layers of brown sandstone and brown-and-white sandstone alternate for several hundred feet culminating at a white sandstone base that is sheared into vertical walls. The west wide of Painted Point is the only area exhibiting these multi-colored layers. Some cone structures are near the road. The first visit to Painted Point impressed me with its beauty. I took pictures, inspected the area, climbed the hill, and moved on. It was not until some time later that I assembled all the data I had gathered and made any sense of it.

From the rim I had seen west of Cedarville, I had originally assumed Vya to be the center of the crater but when I used it as the center, it did not conform to the crest of the uplifted mountains. Painted Point appears to be a better center and the feature labeled "Black Hills" (elevation 6,110 feet located four miles southwest of Painted Point) is a perfect center.

Studying the map, I noticed a chain of lakes north and east of Painted Point. Is it possible that a meteorite came from the southwest, hit the earth at Black Hills and continuing northeast hit again at Painted Point cutting through the earth to create West Lake, Middle Lake, and Massacre Lake?

East beyond the lakes is another round hill called Bitner Butte. All of these features lined up perfectly. I was beginning to formulate a report of incredible dimensions. Was this a track left by an enormous meteorite? The evidence seemed unmistakable. I began writing a report entitled <u>The Vya Crater</u>.

> There is evidence that northern Washoe County, Nevada is the site of a prehistoric meteoritic impact. The closest populated area in relation to the center of the fossil crater is Vya, Nevada. This crater is nearly obliterated by erosion and other geological processes. However, the features which remain unmistakably indicate a gigantic crater. To my knowledge, no terrestrial crater of this size has been studied and the peculiarities are unexpected....

Can you visualize an enormous, exploding, and burning meteorite crashing into the earth at Painted Point melting the earth's

surface and blowing the molten rock out in flows? The sandstone is heat-stained to a depth of several hundred feet. This bolide could have been the most powerful machine in the history of the earth.

In The Vya Crater report I theorized that this bolide may have skipped along the earth's surface into Montana or Canada. I did not know if it had gone back into space. That all changed once I probed further stopping along the road west of Fish Creek Mountain. Looking at the mountain itself I saw layers curving up from a common sagebrush flat. Brush and snow filled spaced betweeen the ledges. The curve of these ledges looked like pancake batter thrown out by a mixmaster whose beaters would have had to have been a mile in diameter.

Another way to visualize these layers would be as the result of a tire rotating slowly through the mud. Fish Creek Mountain would be the mud that would have bean thrown out behind the tire. Another graphic illustration: dropping cold water on a hot griddle results in the water "balling up" and "spinning" on the griddle's hot surface. Applying the same principle, it appeared that the bolide had rolled away from its track. While turning in the direction that had carried it away from the blast centers at Black Hills, Painted Point, the chain of lakes, and Bitner Butte, it had sat on the surface of the earth and turned thereby creating Fish Creek Mountain.

Thus, Fish Creek Mountain may be the most unusual mountain in the world. How many mountains were created by a gigantic meteorite sitting and turning on the earth's surface? As I examined Fish Creek Mountain more closely, I ascertained that it is about two and one-quarter miles long with all ledges curved whether viewed from the west, east, or top sides. I named it the "swirl formation" since it appeared to have been swirled out by a giant turning bolide. At the south end of the Mountain the bolide appeared to have turned and tracked back towards the south for approximately one-half mile disappearing at this point. There are no large rocks or hills. The bolide seems to have simple disappeared. I was amazed at the existence of Fish Creek Mountain and that I had seen it. Crater exploration became a preoccupation.

I purchased all the U.S.G.S. topography maps for that area and taped them to the wall so I could view the entire region. It occurred to me that Fish Creek Mountain was enclosed by parenthetical mountain-valley chains on the east and west sides.

From Fish Creek Mountain:

- Long Valley is 26 miles west; Craine Creek is approximately 25 miles east.
- Hays Canyon Range Crest is 31 miles west; Pine Forest Range Crest is 35 miles east.
- The middle of Surprise Valley is 43 miles west; Quinn River and Black Rock Desert are 42 miles east.
- The crest of Warner Mountain is 50 miles west; Bilk Creek and Jackson Mountains are 51 miles east.
- Goose Lake is approximately 59 miles west; Desert and Kings River Valleys are approximately 59 miles east.

There is a distinct occurrence of parenthetical mountain valleys enclosing Fish Creek Mountain. It appears that something happened at the end of the bolide's track. It is possible that the bolide exploded.

I examined these maps day after day. It then occurred to me that Foucault proved the earth rotates with a pendulum. The Foucault pendulum swings in a constant plane and the earth rotates around the swinging pendulum. Would the annular cratering wave oscillate in a constant plane causing the earth's rotation to distort this annular wave into some unknown form? In analyzing the expanding crater I wondered if the wave crest would be inclined toward the west in both the east and west quadrants whereas the annular wave form could not exist in either the north and south quandrants. The wave would have to shear into small sections; this shearing would cause precession and the small wavelets would tumble thereby completely eliminating the annular crater wave form.

The entire wave action becomes extremely complex. The waves counter-rotate around an axis that parallels the earth's axis of rotation. Objectively, the bolide must have exploded at Fish Creek Mountain and pulsed the earth's surface with such force that waves were traveling long enough to be distorted by the earth's rotation.

The significance is that meteoritic impacts create mountain chains that can only parallel the axis of the earth's rotation. Metoritic impacts are the mountain-building process. The Foucault pendulum and the earth's rotation effectively scramble annular craters into north-south mountain chains. There are several mountain ranges that jut out south of the area where the southern rim should be: Black Rock Range, Calicos, and Granite Range. The mountains end in the Black Rock Desert south of which the mountains are jumbled but a pattern can be seen that reaches to Two Tips which is north of Fernley, Nevada, a distance of 144 miles.

In the northern quadrant (where a crater rim should be) the earth is ripped into a pattern of low rims and flats that are lakes or sinks. The pattern diminishes in intensity as one proceeds north from Fish Creek Mountain. The pattern can be followed to Burns, Oregon, a distance of approximately 138 miles.

Though the earth rotates on its axis once in each 24 hour period, the moon makes one revolution each 708 hour period. Consequently, there are large craters on the moon, many one hundred miles in diameter, each having an annular rim because the moon rotates so slowly that the annular crater wave is not distorted.

When the bolide exploded at Fish Creek Mountain, the wave action almost totally destroyed the Vya Crater. The small section of crater rim that survived near Cedarville appears to be a shadow of Painted Point. When the bolide hit the earth at Painted Point, it sheared a shatter cone of gigantic proportions in the earth's crust. Later, the wave action arriving from Fish Creek Mountain encountered a discontinuity. The sheared section at Painted Point would not transfer the wave action as well as did the solid crust.

The Vya Crater has diameter of approximately fifty miles while the Larger Crater would have had a diametere of 120 to 130 miles.

The lava rims in the Hays Canyon Range are the fused floor of the Vya Crater that have been sheared and lifted. The Larger Crater obliterated the Vya Crater and in turn was obliterated by the result of the earth's rotation.

The bottom of Fish Creek is covered with tiny blue fire opals which are a part of the rock of the swirl formation and are like large grains of sand. We found some water skipper cocoons that were covered with these grain-size fire opals. The opals are not large enough to be of commercial value and were only found in a blue color. The bolide may have carried a strange electroactivity that created this two-plus mile long mountain composed of grain-size fire opals.

The terrain around Fish Creek Mountain is rounded. Apparently the bolide melted down everything that it could not blow away though it did blow away mountains.

About a mile north of Fish Creek Camp are some rock clumps that stand out from the surrounding terrain. These ledges are layers of earth that were peeled up from the surface. One ledge, approximately thirty feet long, stands about seven feet high and is backed by a higher surface behind its face. The bolide may have created an exiting hypersonic flow that peeled the earth's

surace back in a four foot thick step. There are quite a few ledges of this type in that area. I had seen similar ledges while antelope hunting but did not understand their significance at the time. These ledges may represent ablative peeling by the bolide.

Another interesting formation is east of the road that goes to Summit Lake Indian Reservation and is approximately one-half mile south of 8A. A tufa formation on the east side of the road has apparently been scoured on top by the bolide's fires. The tufa is cut into hills and furrows; these furrows are nearly a foot deep and a foot apart. The scoured part covers several acres and may be ablative scouring. It is a most unusual formation even by Nevada standards.

Some years ago a friend loaned me a book entitled A Marvelous Work and a Wonder. Early Mormon settlers had interviewed the local Indians and recorded their legends. The following reprint refers to Lake Lahontan and the water that was reportedly blown out of the lake.

66 A MARVELOUS WORK AND A WONDER

Washoe Indian Legend

Typical of these traditions is the following Washoe Indian Legend which seems to have preserved the story of the disappearance of the great intermountain lake. This immense "sheet" of water was called Lahonitan. Its existence in the past is attested by the fossilized remains of animals that have been found in various parts of the basin, as well as by other unmistakable evidences. The Indian Legend is related as follows:

Long time, heap long time. Maybe one hundred years. Injun no sabe, white man sabe. My grandfather's father, he heap old man. Maybe two, three hundred years, me dunno, Carson Valley, Waso Valley, Truskee Valley, Long Valley, Pilamid Lake, Lublock, eblywhere all water, plenty pish, plenty duck. Big pish too, now no see him no more, all go away, no come back.

Wasu Injun, he lib big mountains (pointing to the Comstock and Pyramid range.) Sometime Wasu Indian take em boat go see Piutce, maybe Piutee he take em boat go see Wasu Indian, Yash he good friend, all time.

Pointing to the Sierra to the west of Washoe Valley, the old Indian continued:

> Big mountain all time pire, plenty 'boom, 'boom, heap smoke, injun heap flaid! Byme bye, one day, mountain heap smoke, heap noise, glound too much shake, Injun heap flaid. pall down, plenty cly. He sun ebly day come up (pointing to the northeast) he go down, (pointing to the southwest.) One day no come up, Injun no sabe, mountain heap smoke, glound plenty shake, wind blow, water heap mad. *Maybe two, tlee day sun he no come*, injun no eat, no sleep, all time cly, cly, Yash, heap flaid. Byme bye water make plenty noise, go plenty fast like Tluckee Liver: water go down, down, mountain come up, come up, plenty mud, plenty pish die, byme by sun come back over this mountain (pointing to the southeast) he go down ober there (pointing to the northwest.) Yash, white man sabe, injun no sabe.
>
> Maybe two, tlee week, mud he dly up, Piutee, Wasu Injun walk, no more boat. All water he go; maybe little water Pilamid Lake, Honey Lake, Wasu Lake, too much mountain, he come purty quick. Yash, injun no sabe, water, big pish no come back. No see him no more. (Mrs. M. M. Garwood, *Progressive West Magazine*, reprinted in Deseret Semi-Weekly News, February 5, 1906.)
>
> The narrative is lacking in detail, but it is sufficiently clear to indicate that the aborigines of this country have preserved, in legendary form, some account of the terrible cataclysms that have convulsed the American continents.

The Berlin-Ichtyosaur State Park in Churchill County, Nevada has a bone house containing Ichtyosaur remains. These air breathing giant fish lizards were up to seventy feet in length. Parts of thirty-four animals have been found at the Park in Union Canyon. All of the carcasses had been dismembered and the bones found separated from the original skeletons. Since the bones were all found in the surface layers of the soil, it is apparent that the Ichtyosaurs were in the most recent geological epic of the area. It is obvious that the Ichtyosaurs are the "big fish" of the Washoe Indian legend.

If the giant fish had been a gill-breathing fish then it is highly likely that: (1) the Indian would not have seen the big fish; and, (2) a gill fish would seek the relative safety of the bottom of Lake Lahontan if its surface was being blown away by the Vya Bolide. If, indeed, the fish were swimming as a school in the lake in the vicinity of what is now Stillwater, then the fish remains would have been blown over seventy-five miles; two inch thick rib bones were broken into two and three inch sections by a violent impact. The bolide's point of impact at Painted Point is approximately one hundred sixty miles from Stillwater. What kind of force could lift fish weighing tons each and blow them a distance exceeding seventy-five miles? Remember that this same bolide melted Painted Point to a depth of seventy-five feet. The Indian legend also indicates that the earth may have wobbled on

its axis as the sun did not come up in the place where the Indian was accustomed to seeing it rise. "White man sabe."

The Washoe Indian legend could be considered an eye witness account by comparing it to data we now have available. We know that Lake Lahontan existed by the lake shore benches we can see but we never suspected that it might have been "blown away." The legend identifies "big fish" in Lake Lahontan and the bones are found in Union Canyon. The mountain formations show that Two Tips had been lifted; the Washoe Indian said the mountains "came up." The Indian describes a three day time lapse for all the happenings of this event to transpire. Consider the path of the bolide in northern Washoe County. Consider the area traveled. If it impacted at Painted Point, continued through the chain of lakes to Bitner Butte, rolled over Fish Creek Mountain, spun for some two and one-quarter miles before turning south, then turned for another one-half mile before exploding--the dust would not have settled for several days. Ground tremors might also have lasted for several days after the initial blast.

The United States Bureau of Mines made a study of the mineral potential of the Charles Sheldon Wilderness Study Area, Nevada and Oregon. This publication is entitled U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1538. Part of the study contained a Magnetic and Gravity Survey of the proposed wilderness area and outlined a possible caldera at the place I had identified as the blast epicenter of the Large Crater. The aeromagnetic and bougher gravity map show C1 as a possible caldera in the same area in which I believe the bolide exploded. There is another anomalous area at C9 south of Bitner Butte. This would be directly in the path of the bolide as it rolled away toward Fish Creek Mountain.

The Vya NK 11-7 raised relief map shows Boulder Lake in a miniature crater that opens to the bolide's oncoming path. The bolide may have struck the earth at Boulder Lake in the Hays Canyon Range and then it may have broken out creating the chain of blast centers to the northeast.

The February 1985 issue of National Geographic contains an article entitled "Greenland's 500 Year Old Mummies" (pp. 191+) that may have a direct bearing on the events which transpired at Vya. The article reports the finding of eight mummified bodies who probably died in approximately 1475 in Greenland. Stomach and fecal matter retrieved from the mummified bodies contained microscopic fragments of evergreen wood which appeared to have been previously burned. The startling aspect of this find is that there are no evergreen trees in all of Greenland. There is then the question of how the wood fragments, however microscopic in size, appeared in the stomachs of Greenland's Inuet mummies.

A possible solution could be found in the following supposition. The exploding bolide at Vya could have splintered everything in its path including the trees. It could also have provided the high wind needed to transport the burned splinters such a great distance. This process could have injected splinters, ash, and poisonous gasses into the northern latitudes which could have then drifted eastward. Such a cloud of debris might have taken a great circle path and been subject to the Coriollis force (curve to the north) thereby being out of the effects of the earth's rotation.

Additional facts which lend credence to the above supposition are these. Qilakitsoq, Greenland is approximately at the midway point on the west coast of Greenland; the path of the bolide in Nevada is in almost perfect alignment with the midpoint of Greenland. The distance between Vya, Nevada and Qilakitsoq, Greenland is approximately 3,100 miles.

The National Geographic article indicates (p. 194) that the Norse, who had been living on Greenland's southwest coast for nearly five centuries, had died out or abandoned the island by 1500 A.D. This implies that whatever caused the death of the Inuets (mummies) of Qilakitsoq could also have decimated the Norse population. This would date the events of the Vya Bolide in the following manner: the Washoe Indian legend is old (but not that old); the 1475 date would then place the bolide epic at 400+ years before the coming of the white man to Nevada.

An additional historical fact which could further assist us in understanding such phenomena is that in 1908 there was a meteoritic fall in the Yenissei River basin in Central Sibera known as the Tunguska Meteorite. A meteorite (bolide) exploded in the air above the forest causing a radial windfall of the trees "crown out." The felling of trees extended to hillsides sixty kilometers (thirty-seven miles) distant from ground zero. At ground zero the trees were charred and left standing but all branches were stripped from the trunks. I refer to the Tunguska Meteorite here because every branch and twig was charred at the point of breaking

off from the main trunk of the tree. In other words, the charred splinters found in the Inuet mummies of Qilakitsoq, Greenland, could have been charred in the same manner as the trunks, branches, and twigs at Tunguska, Siberia--only blown in by strong winds after the Vya Bolide explosion.

The lava ejecta from the bolide may have carried special electroactivity that eventually percolated downward filling the voids and attaching itself to fossil and organic materials as fire opal. Lava deposits from the Vya Bolide may indicate that precious opal occurs below the earth's surface. This area of concern covers the ground from the Hays Canyon Range to the Alvord Desert as well as a distance of fifty to one hundred miles on either side of the bolide's path. There have also been reports of fire opal deposits in southern Oregon and Idaho.

A wilderness designation would forever end the opportunity to explore this area for this precious gemstone. It would also preclude the researching and gathering of valuable scientific data by qualified members of the scientific community.

Since public domain lands are adequately protected from degradation by the National Organic Act, I see no reason whatsoever to strangle the possible enterprise that could occur in the vicinity of the Charles Sheldon Wilderness Study Area in Nevada and Oregon.

We, the citizens of this great country, cannot allow a wilderness designation to be assigned to this region before further scientific study can be completed. It would be a crime.

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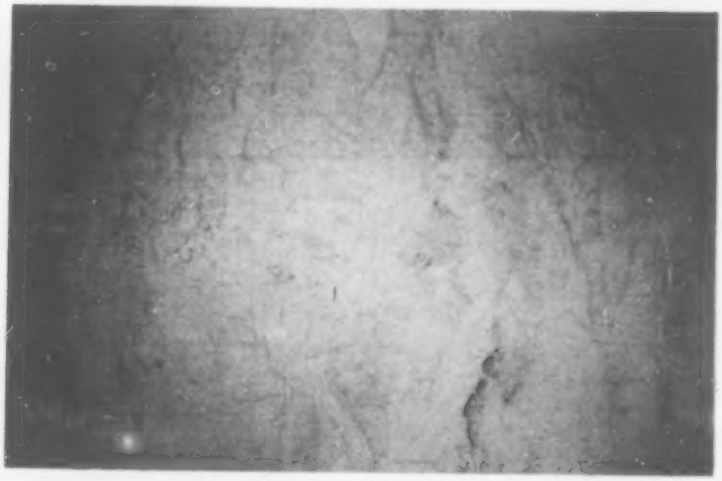
1. Lava sweep of the Hays Canyon Range seen from Long Valley. From Boulder Lake to 49 Canyon the lava rims carry for 15 miles in a straight line. Some peaks of the Warner Mountains intrude on the skyline.

2. Shatter Cones on hillside above Vya, Nevada.

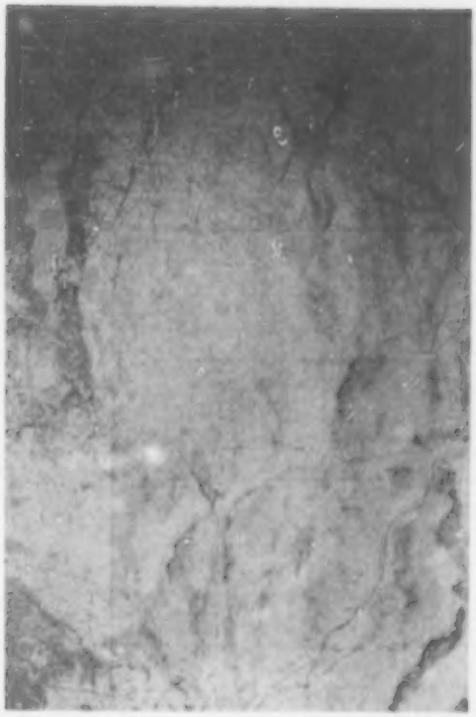
3. Uplifted stratified mountains west of Cedarville, California. Structure appears to be a rim of a fosil crater.

4. Painted Point 8 miles east of Vya. The Point is an impact and blast center along the bolides path. The hill appears to be a gigantic shatter cone. The Point is a vivid display of the awesome power of the Vya bolide. From the black lava cap down to the firey red sandstone was molten lava. Then heat stained layers extend down several hundred feet to the sheared white sandstone.

5. Layered volcanics of Fish Creek Mountain.



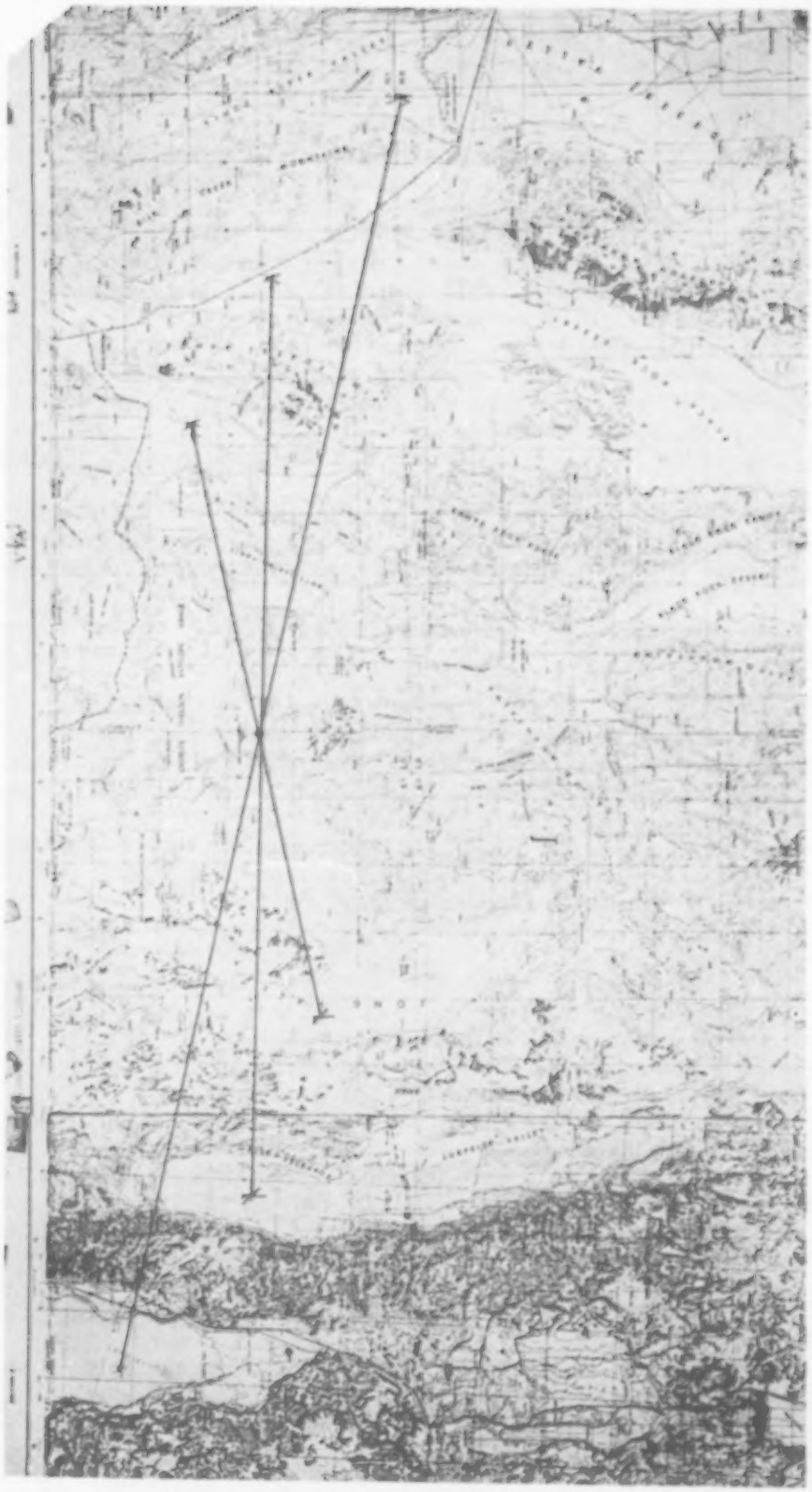
6. Map of the center of the Large Crater. The parenthical mountains and valleys that enclose the blast center can be located.



7. Map of the Large Crater. The Vya sheet is in the middle and lacks detail but the patterns of the mountains outside of the center indicate mountain chains that parrelell the earths axis of rotations.

8. Cocoons that are covered with fire opals from Fish Creek Mountain.

9. Tufa formation that has been scoured by the bolides fires.



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Senator HECHT. Thank you. Your complete copy will be a part of the record.

Next.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT HARVEY

Mr. HARVEY. My name is Robert Harvey.

Senator Hecht, ladies and gentlemen, I am here to speak for the Reid bill to expand Nevada's wilderness area.

Why impose this status on several hundred thousand more acres of Nevada territory, thus excluding some economic interest and even off-road vehicles? Because unless this is done here and now and in other States as well, genuine wilderness experience of America's heritage of freedom will be lost.

Already that experience is cribbed, cabined, and confined. And it is an experience which is a basis of the American notion of freedom. That freedom has achieved much through economic exploitation of our natural resources, it is true. And modern technology made possible by free intelligence making use of those natural resources is the pride of our society.

You can't stop progress, we're told. Agreed. But if you're interested and truly free, you can rightly direct progress. Progress is no locomotive without an engineer and we're not victims roped to the rails.

I am a backpacker who has left the kitchen sink behind and walked with men and women, including my four daughters and a grandson, in many of the ranges and locations mentioned in Mr. Reid's bill.

I am also a professor of American literature. I teach young people stuff written by Franklin, Cooper, Thoreau, Melville, Mark Twain, Hemingway, Elizabeth Bishop, Toni Morrison, and our own Mary Austin, Walter Van Tilburg Clark, and Robert Laxalt.

The deepest level of this country's imagination is identified with the land and the wilderness idea. Mr. Jefferson, who really believed in freedom, sent Lewis and Clark out here to look at it. Now we live here in cities and towns in the wild west. The biggest little west.

I say the realization of what wilderness is leads to awareness of what a free citizen can be. You can't hail a taxi to that. You can't four-wheel jeep to that without destroying it. You have to walk bearing a load, up and in, down and back, an experience which offers respect and even love for the threatened wilderness.

Ladies and gentlemen, Senator, what wilderness is not just out there in some 900,000 acres of Nevada land. That wilderness is in the hearts and minds of over 900,000 Nevada citizens. It makes us free, and yearn to stay free. That wilderness must be preserved, protected, and defended, as Mr. Lincoln once said of the Union and every other President who ever took the oath of office.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Now, will the next panel please come up, we're going right ahead.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel No. 10. David Cowperthwaite, Ellen Hodos, Don Devato, Jan Nachlinger, Tina Fields, and Gary Vinyard.

Panel No. 11 should come up to the front row. That's Fred Brandmills, Ray Mitchell, Bradford Nills, Allen Haas, Don Danner, Pat Cave, and Loren Burnett.

Senator HECHT. Identify yourself, and start right in, please.

STATEMENT OF DAVID COWPERTHWAITE, ON BEHALF OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mr. COWPERTHWAITE. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is David Cowperthwaite, and I am a representative from the League of Women Voters of Nevada. I am a member of the State board. The league is also a member of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Coalition.

Even though the league would like to see more wilderness areas included in the Reid bill, we support H.R. 3302, the Harry Reid bill, as amended. We believe that this bill goes far in protecting pristine wilderness areas of Nevada.

The league opposes the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill. The league does not believe that this bill will protect Nevada's potential wilderness areas. Instead, the bill has been specifically designed to ensure that land needing public protection is not protected. This bill has been designed for uses counter to the purpose of the Wilderness Act.

The Reid bill provides for protection of key wildlife habitats and watersheds. The bill provides protection of Nevada's most scenic and beautiful areas. These areas represent Nevada's unique geological and environmental heritage. They are the jewels of Nevada, and they symbolize to the Nation that Nevada is not a wasteland. These wilderness areas represent the essence of Nevada and some of nature's finest creation.

The Reid bill protects many of Nevada's rural watersheds. These watersheds are crucial to the ranching and farming economies of rural Nevada. The league believes that protection of Nevada's water resources both surface and ground water is crucial for economic development in rural Nevada. The wilderness designation does not take away anyone's right but rather protects the water rights of Nevada's communities and ranchers.

The Reid bill will allow for Nevada's unique wildlife to have a home untrampled by the destructive effects of civilization.

A key aspect of Nevada's rural economy is hunting and fishing. Protection of these areas will allow for this important activity to continue and be a part of Nevada's economy. The sportsman provides dollars to Nevada's rural towns and is crucial in offsetting the boom and bust cycle of the mining industry.

During the last few months, much has been discussed about the possible impact of wilderness upon mining in Nevada. The league believes that Nevada's mining industry will not be impacted by the wilderness areas proposed in the Reid bill. The existing evidence indicates that the wilderness areas under discussion have no strategic mineral value or commercial value for production of nonstrategic minerals. The mining industry has not provided clear or convincing evidence of the mineral potential for these areas. The areas under consideration have few conflicts over mineral claims. If the

areas did have a mineral potential they would have staked and mined long ago.

The areas under consideration in the Reid bill are insignificant acreage compared to the overall size of the State. The mining industry has reserves in many of Nevada's minerals to last hundreds of years.

The league appreciates this opportunity to present testimony to this committee. The league respectfully recommends that more time should have been scheduled in Reno and Las Vegas to accommodate diverse opinions being presented to this committee. Specifically, evening hearings should have been held, this, of course, to allow the majority of working men and women in Nevada to participate.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ERIC McCLARY, FORESTA INSTITUTE

Mr. MCCLARY. My name is Eric McClary. I'm from Foresta Institute. We're an organization for environmental research and education in Nevada.

Those who think of Nevada wilderness as barren and unproductive can only have had the briefest exposure to it, maybe through the window of a speeding car en route from Reno to Salt Lake.

But every Nevadan, having grown up, on, and with the land, having worked and played on it, having studied it both in and out of school, knows better than that. He or she has enjoyed the stunning diversity of natural environments found in this State, forests, lakes, mountains, deserts, those sound environments like the strange oasis of the Devil's Hole, he may have only heard about.

Each Nevadan has observed some of the colorful and ingenious adaptations made by local wildlife, changeable weather, and rugged terrain of his homeland. Nevadans have also learned how, when, and where to find the bustle of fascinating animal activity that may be eluding the casual observer.

Foresta Institute has been proud of the years of service in helping Nevadans to discover the value of their wilderness heritage. In learning the principles of ecology, people of this State have become aware of the underlying fragility of wild environments whose resilience to abuse they had previously taken for granted. With their growing environmental awareness has come an increased concern among Nevadans about the ways in which their wildlands have been used and it's made them increasingly suspicious of the multiple use dogma.

We have seen the Government's relentless nuclear testing disrupt Nevada's seismology and leave us with poorly understood effects of residual radiation. We have watched military bombing exercises turn delicate and unique desert ecosystems into ruined landscape littered with shrapnel. At times we have seen mineral speculation interests turned loose to ravage our lands with little, if any, regard for restoring them to their former wild condition. And, as the boy said earlier, "Miners make a big mess."

Most recently, our lands and lives were threatened by the deadly nuclear waste forced upon us by other States who were all too aware of this hazard.

Fortunately, the Federal Government now has the opportunity to make amends for its past abuses and to demonstrate the commitment to the real needs of Nevadans by protecting substantial areas of Nevada land under the Wilderness Act.

The question here isn't really how much land can we afford to set aside as a wilderness, but how much can we afford not to protect? Not all the potentially damaging effects of various land-use activities are known at this time. The disastrous consequences of acid rain did not come to light until this decade, and by that time it was too late to save some of the Earth's most treasured forests.

Of course, designation of wilderness cannot fully protect against an area from such a pervasive enemy as acid rain. However, wilderness designation will protect our treasured wildlands from the characteristically shortsighted and selfish goals of private industry, be it mining, agriculture, tourism, or whatever. And I must say that the testimony provided today by representatives of those industries did nothing to counter this image.

It will also protect the land from the equally myopic interests of our Government's military services. And, above all, it will provide our sacred trusts with a buffer against the shifting tides and philosophies of changing Government administration.

Protection of Nevada's vast and complex natural ecosystems cannot be accomplished on a piecemeal basis.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. Your time's up.

Mr. MCCLARY. OK. Foresta Institute recommends at least a few millions of Nevada's many acres of eligible wildlands be put under the protection of the Wilderness Act as cheap enough insurance that this unique and irreplaceable heritage be preserved for the appreciation, education, and productive scientific study of our future generations.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue right on.

STATEMENT OF JAN NACHLINGER, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHERN NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Ms. NACHLINGER. Thank you, Senator.

I'm Jan Nachlinger, vice president of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society, and I am speaking on behalf of the 450 members of that society.

We are a nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in Nevada's native plants. We are both young and old. Our members have diverse interests, including natural history, ecology, gardening, photography, conservation, and hiking. We are interested in the long-term protection and preservation of the Nevada native flora in its natural habitat.

We support the establishment of protected areas that preserve native plants, especially rare plants and unique assemblances of plants.

Regarding our stand on the pending wilderness bills, the Northern Nevada Plant Society feels that Senate bill 722 and H.R. 1686

are inadequate wilderness bills that would not protect the native flora, since they would allow herbicide spraying, mineral development, and motor vehicle access into the areas set aside. Furthermore, these bills include only a very small fraction of Nevada's total lands, less than two-tenths of 1 percent.

On the other hand, H.R. 3302 would offer protection of our native flora from mining, logging, and road building. This bill is a fair compromise between varying interests in our State. It offers protection for about 1.6 percent of Nevada's lands, yet includes less than one-third of Nevada's potential forest wilderness.

In addition, because this bill provides for the establishment of a Great Basin National Park it will protect Nevada's ancient bristlecone pines. The Northern Nevada Native Plant Society supports the establishment of a national park in the Great Basin.

Approximately 16 threatened or endangered candidate plant species, plus another 22 rare plants, would be protected from future development under H.R. 3302. On the other hand, less than one-quarter of this number would be semi-protected under your bill.

In conclusion, the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society supports wilderness and the establishemnt of a Great Basin National Park in the form of H.R. bill 3302. These preserves would protect Nevada's native flora and fauna, but also because our members support the concept of wildlands for future generations.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF TINA FIELDS

Ms. FIELDS. My name is Tina Fields, and I am here today as the voice for many peoples who could not speak on their own behalf at such a hearing, but whose needs must be heard of. Those for whom the raw land is truly irreplaceable. I speak for the hawk, the eagle, and deer, the coyote, the bobcat, the mustang, the trout, and many, many more.

These disputed lands are not nonuse lands. They are of measurable worth to many lives, including our own, as much as those animals. We creatures of technological minds that desperately need areas unmutated by our own hands, big wild areas for renewal of spirit and mind.

I went to Canada last summer and I saw for the first time a bald eagle, and I was so excited. The people there laughed at me, said, "Isn't that your national symbol," I was so ashamed, so hurt. We must begin to exercise humility.

Do you realize that our fumblings don't necessarily improve things. We're here as the stewards of the Earth, not her masters. The James Watt amenities must go. It's just too late to pretend that God is going to swoop down and fix our atrocities. Mommy isn't going to make it all better. It's time for our race to grow up and take ultimate responsibility for our actions.

Even Representative Reid's bill is ridiculously small: 1 percent of the State as wilderness. We should be ashamed.

Senator, when the history of Nevada is written you are not going to be remembered for saving $20 here or there. You will be remem-

bered for your decisions which created a Yosemite National Park or Yosemite Condos.

Progressive legislators like Reid or Seiberling who think beyond the current wallet sizes are going to help Nevada shed its backward, hick, money-grubbing image, and they will be revered as the thoughtful men in the age of rapists.

When I am your age, I want to be able to walk an unpaved mile without a permit. I want my grandchildren to see a deer that's not stuffed in a museum. We can't make new wild places. We can't fix strip mines. Please support creation of even more wilderness than has been spoken of here today. Think of it is a gift to your babies so that they can know the hawks.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF GARY VINYARD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Mr. VINYARD. That's a hard one to follow.

My name is Gary Vinyard and I'm an associate professor at the University of Nevada, although I'm speaking here just in my role as an educator and a researcher.

At the University of Nevada, I teach several classes, classes in ecology, classes in desert monitoring ecosystem, classes in environment and man.

And in those classes, we very often spend time out in the field, time out in Nevada as well as nearby areas of California, and I find that these field trips are very valuable to students. It is especially important for students to get exposure to pristine ecosystems. The ecosystems that we have some idea about how they may be functioning, but, all things considered, we know very little about them.

It's also important for students to get exposed to ecosystems which have varying levels of disturbance. As you might appreciate, it's relatively easy for us to find disturbed ecosystems anywhere nearby, and relatively more difficult to find pristine undisturbed ecosystems.

As a result of these field trips, I find that my students experience on this field trips is usually an unsurpassed educational experience. I'm sure you must realize that the prospective of actually having something in hand or being in an undisturbed environment is really an essential aspect of the education of really any student in our universities.

And it's also an important resource for research. You might consider the preservation of wild lands, of wilderness areas in an analogy very similar to the current efforts to solve the problems of cancer. For example, you might think that it would be easy to find a cure for cancer, but it might be very difficult if we didn't know the way cells were actually supposed to operate.

The same sort of analogy can be established with regard to ecosystems. If w don't know how natural ecosystems are supposed to operate, we won't be able to, in any way, begin to sustain our life on this planet, and I think that probably is a persuasive argument.

I think it's important if you regard your role as in any way related to educating the students of Nevada that you realize that it's

important to preserve as large a segment of the State for this endeavor to educate our students as a resource as is possible.

The small areas outlined in your bill, I think, are insufficient to accomplish that goal, and even Representative Reid's bill, though it is larger, it is still only a very small percentage of the State. I would urge you to consider even including the areas that have been dropped previously.

Thanks.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

If the next panel would please come up.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Fred Bradmills, Ray Mitchell, Bradford Nills, Allen Haas, Don Danner, Pat Cave, Loren Burnett.

The panel that should come up to the front row is; Bob Fulkerson, Neal Donaldson, Alice Downer, Craig Downer, Robert C. Downer, and Fred Hinners.

Senator HECHT. OK. Are you ready?

Let's start right off.

STATEMENT OF RAY MITCHELL, VIRGINIA CITY, NV

Mr. MITCHELL. Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich, my name is Ray Mitchell from Virginia City, NV.

My maternal grandparents settled in Nevada in the 1860's; my paternal grandparents in the 1870's. From these people have come six generations. We have been in all types of professions and occupations. That is: Cattlemen, farmers, miners, railroaders, wardens of Nevada State Penitentiary, sheriff of Lyon County, and I am a conductor for the Virginia-Truckee Railroad. And I could go on and on.

My point here is let Nevadans handle Nevada land. As you can tell from this meeting, you are in a metropolitan area. All of these clubs and organizations get up and tell you all the things that they have been indoctrinated in. And the reason I say this, when you look at the paper that I have submitted, the first paragraph says, "I am a former member of the Sierra Club." I had been hoodwinked, pushed around, told stories, and, in plain English, told lies.

And in this I wanted to tell about the Sunset Crater in Arizona. The Sierra Club got the Sunset Crater as a wilderness area. After the Forest Service had put in all the parking areas and the buildings and the ramps for people to go up, but now once a year only the Sierra Club goes up to the top of Sunset Crater.

Further, I was a member of the White Water Kayaking Group, and when I left the Sierra Club in a bitter argument, they were trying to get a portion of the Stanislaus River in California made into a restricted area solely for the purpose of the Sierra Club White Water Kayakers.

Now, I could go on and on, but I'm going to skip some of this because it's going to be reiterated before the day is over.

One point I do want to make about what proponents say to the handicapped wilderness area. My wife is handicapped, she can't even make it here today. I have a four-wheel-drive rig and I don't belong to a four-wheel-drive club. The reason I have that four-wheel-drive rig is to take her out of the asphalt jungle into the back country.

If this wilderness continues to grow, and it will, she will be locked in the asphalt jungle. Therefore, we are really opposed to any wilderness areas, but we will go along with S. 722.

When they talk about gold mining and the high-wilderness areas, remember that Virginia City first started the gold mining down by the Carson River and went up to the top. Considering the Forest Service and BLM are having drastic budget cuts, can they financially support wilderness areas? This business of wilderness areas is very costly and should be one of the first things to fall under the axe of balanced budget election. The Federal budget must be cut, then stop this senseless expense of wilderness areas.

Senator, you stated in your letter of January 29, 1986, and I quote, "belt tightening behavior which all Americans will inevitably have to participate," end of quote. Then you and your committee have the opportunity to lead in compliance with balanced budget legislation. Stop this spending on wilderness if you won't stop this wilderness program. You've got $36 billion in reductions in the next 5 years, Senator. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mitchell follows:]

February 13, 1986

Senator Chic Hecht
300 Booth Street, Suite 2014
Reno, Nevada 89509

I am a former member of the Sierra Club. As a member I learned several things. Namely, they are out for themselves. I have two examples.

In Arizona, Sunset Crater was a popular tourist attraction, BUT the Sierra Club decided there were too many people getting to see it that were not members of the Sierra Club. They were able to force through legislation closing the Sunset Crater, EXCEPT for an annual Sierra Club member inspection.

In other words, only the Sierra Club can now see the Crater. This is not fair to tourists visiting Arizona or to the residents there.

In situation number two, my wife and I were members of the White Water Kayak group of the Sierra Club, but left when we were asked to sign a petition to close off part of the Stanislaus River to the public but keep it for the Sierra Club's training. This would have eliminated all boating, kayaking and fishing on the Stanislaus River, EXCEPT for members of the Sierra Club.

Now, of a different vein. The Sierra Club says for future generations, but by the time future generations realize what has been done to them it will take several more generations to correct the situation. Consider the loss of valuable minerals, lumber, water and open recreation sites that these generations will suffer.

Further, the closing of these areas will eliminate all but the hale and hardy from these areas. Those with physical handicaps will be kept OUT. Could this be grounds for the Supreme Court to rule extreme restrictions unconstitutional? The handicapped are pushing for (and deserve) equals rights.

My wife is presently in a cast again and agrees with me. She will be shut out. She is handicapped.

Too much wilderness designation is worse than no Wilderness legislation.

In my review of the present legislation, I consider the Bills S722 and HR1686 the most just.

Thank you,

Ray J. Mitchell

Ray J. Mitchell
P. O. Box 42
Virginia City, Nevada 89440

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF FRED BRADMILLS

Mr. BRADMILLS. Senator Hecht, members of the committee, foremost, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on the subject of wilderness in Nevada.

My name is Fred Bradmills, and I am an exploration geologist. I have lived and worked in Nevada since 1980, including 5 years in rural Nevada at Round Mountain.

The focus of my testimony today is to point out that mining and exploration activities have rarely irreparably damaged wilderness values, whereas wilderness designation has invariably damaged mineral activities and it's caused the unjust taking of real property rights.

For over 100 years the lands of Nevada have been subjected to mineral exploration in mining, without the loss of significant wilderness values. The fact that so much of our lands today are covered with wilderness must attest to the long-term validity of this. Indeed, historically, the existing Jarbidge wilderness area was subjected to mineral activity.

With today's environmental and reclamation practices, mining activities rarely permanently impair natural values. Unfortunately, while mining is compatible with the preservation of wilderness values, wilderness designaton is not compatible with mining.

Wilderness designation invariably excludes my mining. First, no new mining claims may be located in an area once it is designated for wilderness, effectively eliminating the future.

Second, existing unpatented claims within wilderness are subject to validity exams. Those exams require a claim to pass a marketability test. Marketability requires proof that the mineral resource of the claim can be produced and sold at a profit at the time of the exam. A difficult task at best but especially so during these depressed mineral market times. To prove marketability, the claim must be subjected to drilling, development, construction all activities that are precluded under wilderness designation. A catch-22 situation exists.

To compound the injustice, the economic burden of defense is placed on the property holder. Numerous examples throughout the West show us that loss of unpatented mineral rights in wilderness areas is universally the fate of individual claim holders who do not have the financial wherewithal to defend their claims from the governmental agencies.

Third, even if a claim is proved valid, very stringent access development and operating restraints are imposed. A risky business such as mining, these restraints often reduce the benefit beyond any possible return. Thus, through the precluding of new mineral industry and the use of utility exams, all mineral rights within a designated wilderness area are quickly extinguished.

Wilderness designation must be carefully evaluated in the taking of real property rights without due process considered. Acreage comparison figures with other States must not be used in deciding what is right for the Nevadans.

I strongly oppose the creation of additional wilderness environ, and urge the quick passage of the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF DONALD C. DANNER

Mr. DANNER. I'm Don Danner. I have been 35 years in mining in northern Nevada. And 3 minutes is not enough time, and yet probably one statement would probably be enough.

If we are to again become a sound nation, financially strong, we cannot put our vast resources under this wilderness control.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we have been over this transfer of lands too many times. At this time in history, there is no excuse for this kind of a wilderness areas. Wilderness means that I and you cannot go there. All our resources are needed and multiple-purpose land use is the only answer.

We are concerned about our national debt, our exports and imports are out of balance. Why then do we export raw materials to foreign countries? Why do we suggest such ridiculous proposals when here at home we need so much?

We are shipping raw materials, timber, iron ore, and other metals to foreign countries to do the very thing that goes into production that we say shouldn't be done. Their refineries and smelters discharge into the same atmosphere that we use. Only because of the union labor policies does our Nation suffer from unemployment.

Let us use our land, graze it, mine it, enjoy what God has set aside for us. There is no reason that our land cannot be used and remain as good, if not better, than it was before. We do not need a Congressman from another State or area too tell us what to do.

I urge you, as history has proven, we must stop these subversive programs that are designed to undermine the welfare of our Nation.

Here I speak from record: That within the ranks of the Sierra Club, the Forest Service, and the BLM, there are subversive personnel. These records came to me under tight security when I worked for the Atomic Energy Commission as an Administrator, and I am sure that same personnel support the Reid program as is set forth.

Now I may sound a little vicious about this, but politics is no place for a land use problem. Also, it should be noted that BLM does not, has not, nor ever should have the right to apply for water in this State. They do not own land and should leave the applications to the ranchers and miners. If ever the Bureau of Land Management should control our water, as could happen if this land goes under wilderness, may God help you.

We cannot refuse our elderly, our handicapped, our outdoorsman or hunters or trappers or fishermen their rights, constitutionally, to use this land. There is no way to stop the flow of people into Nevada and no one has yet suggested a way to stop increased population, so let us help this generation. If we refuse the present popu-

lation their rights, you refuse every generation yet to come, or are we saving our great Nation for the coming Communist Party?

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. You're at the end of your time.

Mr. DANNER. All right. In Oregon, the wilderness bill was changed over to the scenic area and the scenic area has been nothing but a disaster. In Arizona, the same thing happened.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF LOREN BURNETT

Mr. BURNETT. My name is Loren Burnett. I'm a citizen of Nevada living in excess of 15 years. I am a property owner, registered voter, and as such, I consider that I have an obligation and responsibility as well as a right to be heard.

And just as I was about to deliver my volley here, I don't know whether there is Freudian or subversive, I see maybe this is the answer. It says, "Escape to Wisconsin" on the glasses.

I'm in full accord with the withdrawal of the public lands to be designated as wilderness areas, as contained in the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich legislation. I am unequivocally opposed to any other withdrawl under any guise at any time for any purpose.

Now, in 1872, there was an act of legislation that assured and guaranteed a private citizen, a little guy like me, access of public lands of his own choice. Now, we have a vociferous, a highly organized, and, I might add, a very well-financed minority, to agree with the Sierra Club to deny that right. I don't think it's right.

Gentlemen, and ladies, what we have to preserve is not land, but rather it's the constitutional right of the sovereign State of Nevada to conduct its own affairs free of outside intrusion, influence, exertion by outside forces and pressures. This is the inevitable danger and a constant threat to us all and against which once, I might add, we rebel.

I was a little bit shocked at the remarks of Congressman Reid because apparently he and I read different versions of the Federalist's Papers because his voting record doesn't purport to confrom to mine.

I would just call your attention, if I might, to a topo map. And you will find that the withdrawl areas are elevated area, they're wooded areas, and less the Humboldt region, of course, which is not in the system. Now, given the rebellious nature of western citizens, particularly Nevadans, can you just imagine the size, the cost, and the structure or the mission of a police force on a Federal level which would have to enforce that periphery and the interior of that land.

What I was going to say has been said and will be said, and much more eloquently, by other people, I am going to just restrain myself to another trepidation that I have.

I have a fear, and I think it's justified, and I have seen regulatory agencies, the Federal Government, take a seemingly right, fair, and just piece of legislation and issue volumes of not law but rules and regulations that not only control our lives but strangle

the original intent of the legislation. And then you have the bureaucracy which is formed, unaccountable to anyone, loose in an arrogant highhanded, arbitrary manner and I consider that our democratic thesis, "consent to be governed," is being severely strained and manifestly flaunted by this type of procedure.

Senator HECHT. Please summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. BURNETT [continuing]. The only other comment that I would make is that I think that somebody should make the rules of what you can, what you canot do, in a wilderness area. I have heard a dozen different versions by, I'm sure, well-intentioned people today. Somebody has got to say: If you go fishing, can you take the fish of the water? Something to that nature.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. We're going to have a 5-minute break and continue right on through with the next panel.

I do want to tell each of you, if you have a written statement and time does not permit you to be here, please submit it and it will be inserted in the record.

[Brief recess taken.]

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Bob Fulkerson, Neal Donaldson, Alice Downer, Craig Downer, Robert C. Downer, and Fred Hinners.

Senator HECHT. OK. Let's go. No. 1.

STATEMENT OF NEAL DONALDSON, RENO, NV

Mr. DONALDSON. Afternoon, Senator. My name is Neal Donaldson. I am a registered Republican here in Reno, NV.

Frankly, I don't feel that your bill is adequate either in scope or in the conditions that it places on the wilderness areas. Twenty years ago, I took my first backpacking trip in the trackless region west of Mount San Ysidro in sothern California. Ten years ago, I returned to the same area to find 5-foot-wide hiking trails through this same area.

This leads me to believe that there is a growing demand for areas which possibly yet away from the noise and the smell and the complexity of our modern industrial society. Ten years ago was also when I decided to move to Nevada so that hopefully my children would have a chance to explore areas similar to what I found on Mount San Ysidro 20 years ago.

The second point I would like to address is wilderness and the handicapped. I make my living by making artificial limbs and orthopedic braces for the handicapped. I have taken the opportunity to interview many of my patients on their feelings about the proposed wilderness areas. I found most of them don't care. They don't care one way or the other. What they're concerned about is whether or not Social Security will buy them enough food and shelter.

However, of those who were interested in outdoor recreational activities, I found no opposition to having significant wilderness areas in Nevada. The one gentleman I work with who did strongly oppose wilderness was a geologist from a mining company. Several people have said that wilderness blocks out the elderly and the

young. My 3½-year-old went backpacking. My 70-year-old grandfather went backpacking.

In summary, wilderness locks nobody out. It only locks out the noise and the pollution of our motor-dependent society.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ALICE GOCHCROCK DOWNER, LOVELOCK, NV

Ms. DOWNER. Senator Hecht and Barbara Vucanovich, our Representative, my name is Alice Gochcrock Downer, and I am a native of Lovelock, NV.

Some of the happiest memories of my youth are those camping and hiking trips in the Humboldt Range and other surrounding areas of Lovelock. And later, after my marriage, exploring the beautiful Ruby Mountains and other remote areas of Nevada.

I met my husband-to-be while attending the University of Nevada where I was studying to be a teacher and he was into civil engineering. This was in the early 1930's during the Great Depression. Money was scarce and Bob and I were drawn together by our mutual love for Nevada's great out-of-doors. I've often said that he wooed me in the Nevada wilderness, for we climbed the peaks and hiked the trails and we still are, after 51 years.

Our three children, all born in Nevada and graduates of the University of Nevada, Reno, have inherited that same love of the pristine beauty of Nevada. And they express it each in their own way.

As a teacher for 25 years in elementary school, I found that one of the greatest motivational forces for enthusiastic learning was simply the great outdoors. With all its mystery and beauty, children identified with the wild creatures with an awareness and sensitivity that is truly profound. Wilderness areas will nurture those healthy attitudes.

Yes, I do support Representative Harry Reid's wilderness bill, which includes establishing a national park in our great State of Nevada, long overdue. Those who represent us in Washington, DC, should realize their responsibility for the good of all the people now and in the future, and should weigh carefully all aspects of their important decision.

The intrinsic value of Nevada's wilderness cannot be measured by the same yardstick as those seeking personal gain. Once the wilderness is gone, it may take many generations to restore it to its original beauty.

And, as for senior citizens, you'll find hundreds of them out on the trails, enjoying the pure air and unspoiled beauty. And as one fellow senior said to me as he passed me on the trail, "Say, this is better than Geritol any day."

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT C. DOWNER, LOVELOCK, NV

Mr. ROBERT DOWNER. The Honorable Senator Hecht, chairman, and Barbara Vucanovich, Representative, and other members of the panel, I am Robert C. Downer of Douglas County, a civil engi-

neer and land surveyor in Nevada since 1934 and a graduate of UNR.

I worked on highways and dams and other projects, public and private, all over this State and have always been fascinated by the wild beauty of Nevada's great ranges.

I have hiked hundreds of miles among them both in my work and just exploring. I have also taken out a few nice bucks. But the deer are scarcer now and the pressure on them has got to be reduced. I am dismayed by the increasing mechanization of the outdoor experience by so many people. So many once beautiful canyons and alpine meadows have been destroyed by four-wheelers cutting up the streambeds and spoiling the water places for wildlife of all kinds, as well as for campers.

These areas, however, will continue to be available for those who cannot walk, I am sure. It is a great challenge for Nevada citizens from all walks of life, city dwellers as well as rural folks, to assert their stewardship of their public lands and not to default their responsibilities by letting the decisions as to the management of our most beautiful ranges be made by those who wish only to exploit them.

Surely we can spare as wilderness a small percentage of these ranges, the highest and the most rugged, to be places where wildlife of all kinds can carry on, the age-old rhythms of their lives undisturbed in their natural habitat. In places where man is only a visitor and, quote, takes only photos and leaves only footprints.

I am 100 percent in favor of the H.R. 3302 wilderness bill and the Wheeler Peak National Park supported by Representative Harry Reid.

Don't you agree that one of the greatest gifts we can leave our children and grandchildren is a privilege of exploring beautiful and inspiring mountains, teeming with our wild fellow creatures and experiencing the joy of being, to all appearances, the first human to set foot on certainly never-to-be-forgotten places?

I have a few comments that occurred to me after listening to the other people. For instance, the fellow who sells four-wheel vehicles and has an airplane. He worries about being rescued if his plane goes down in the wilderness. I would say he has very little to worry about since the proposed 2 percent of wilderness is so tiny, and he would have to be an expert to crash in that particular area.

Senator HECHT. Your time is up. Please summarize your last statement, if you would.

Mr. ROBERT DOWNER. Also, the rock hound explorer. In my experience, I have never seen such terrible desecration of beautiful areas as by collectors of rock mineral specimens.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF CRAIG DOWNER, MINDEN, NV

Mr. CRAIG DOWNER. My name is Craig Downer, and I am proud to be the son of these two that just spoke. I am a wildlife biologist, and I have my master's from the University of Nevada.

I am here to testify on behalf of a generous wilderness designation in U.S. Forest Service lands in the State of Nevada. Nevada's

forests contain many beautiful and majestic areas best suited for wilderness. Wilderness representing that inherent value or quality that was here long before man, his money, and his technology. But this same wilderness is entirely vulnerable when confronted presently by an overly utilitarian attitude on the part of modern man. A thoughtless attitude can indeed destroy wilderness for many generations to come and for this age, as it were.

Areas such as the Sweet Water Range, Ruby Mountains, Wheeler Peak, Alta Toquima, Quinn Range, Toiyabe Crest, and the Santa Rosa Mountains, I am personally acquainted with. These are natural jewels of the desert. They must be preserved in their natural state wherein lies their greatest value.

I see wilderness as the world where nature maintains a balance among diverse life forms. An island of wholeness in the midst of a scarred and devastated landscape, a place where a man so inclined can retreat for solitude, for reattunement to the age-old rhythms, for silent rediscovery of that basic unity between himself and all types of living beings, plants, and animals.

In the words of Thoreau, "In wilderness is the preservation of the world." And as such, in wilderness is considered the place where future generations of our own species may some day return contrite and desirous of learning how to live correctly on this Earth.

Hopefully, people will have had the foresight to preserve some reasonable percentage of the Earth as whole and entire domains of nature that will allow this future possiblity. Consider how many thousands of years the ancient naturalistically advanced Digger Indians inhabited the great basin without denuding the upsetting its fragile ecosystem. Yet, what a short time, scarcely more than a century, has modern technologically advanced man inhabited these parts; and in this short time, what degradation has occurred, all in the name of progress that discounts the natural inherent value of the land, particularly its living components.

I recommend the full designation of all the wilderness areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. CRAIG DOWNER. OK. This is scarcely 1.5 million acres; it's a scant remnant of Nevada's most visually spectacular areas preserving watersheds, intact ecosystems, and balanced diversity but actually representing only a token tribute to that once vast and magically whole desert area of Nevada which evolved over countless eons of time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Craig Downer follows:]

One

Testimony before Senator Chic Hecht's U.S. Forest Service's Wilderness Hearing. February 13, 1986. Reno, Nevada

Good Morning! I'm Craig Downer, a wildlife biologist from Minden, Nevada (P.O. Box 456 Minden, NV 89423). I am here to testify on behalf of a generous wilderness designation on U.S. Forest Service Lands in the state of Nevada. Nevada's forests contain many beautiful and majestic areas best suited for wilderness--wilderness representing that inherent value or quality that was here long before man, his money, and his technocracy. But this same wilderness is entirely vulnerable when confronted presently by an overly utilitarian attitude on the part of modern man. A thoughtless attitude can, indeed, destroy wilderness for many generations to come and for this age, as it were. Areas such as the Sweetwater Range, Ruby Mtns., Wheeler Peak, Alta Toquima, Quinn Range, Toiyabe Crest, and the Santa Rosa Mtns I am personally acquainted with. These are natural jewels of the desert! They must be preserved in their natural state wherein lies their greatest value!

I see wilderness as the world where Nature maintains a balance among diverse life forms, an island of wholeness in the midst of a scarred and devastated landscape, a place where a man so inclined can retreat for solitude, for reattunement to the age-old rhythms, for silent rediscovery of that basic unity between himself and all types of living beings: plants and animals. In the words of Thoreau "In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World" and, as such, in wilderness is conserved a place where future generations of our own species may someday return, contrite and desirous of learning how to live correctly on this Earth! ...Hopefully, people will have had the foresight to preserve some reasonable percentage of the Earth as whole and entire domains of Nature that will allow this future possibility. Consider how many thousands of years the ancient, naturalistically advanced "Digger" Indians inhabited the Great Basin without denuding and upsetting its fragile ecosystem. Yet, what a short time--scarcely more than a century--has modern technologically advanced man inhabited these parts and in this short time what degradation has occurred, all in the name of a progress that discounts the natural, inherent values of the land! Particularly its living components!

I recommend the full designation of all wilderness areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. This is scarcely 1.5 million acres, a scant remnant of Nevada's most visually spectacular areas, preserving watersheds, intact ecosystems, and balanced diversity, but actually representing only a token tribute to that once vast and magically whole desert area of Nevada which evolved over countless eons of time, abt. 2% of the state.

Our mountain tops must be held sacred! "From whence cometh our help", our water, and our eventual restoration. The U.S. Forest Service roadless areas of Nevada must be Preserved in their natural state, not just because it is of benefit to mankind--which it is--but primarily because it is right and just to respect and pay tribute to the Natural world in this way!

Reid's House wilderness proposal represents less than 6-10ths of 1% of Nevada's land area, but includes the spectacular Mt. Wheeler Area, which would be designated as a national park. Mt. Wheeler rises 8000 feet from the desert floor to 13,063 feet of elevation. This 124,500-acre area contains 5 out of the Earth's 7 life zones, from arctic tundra to boreal forest to desert scrub. The only glacier in the Great Basin occurs here, as do bristlecone pines, junipers, and pinyons thousands of years old! The Mt. Wheeler area simply must be saved!

As the only Western state lacking a national park and whose wilderness designation is pitifully small compared to other Western states, Nevada

would greatly benefit from a generous wilderness and park designation, both in terms of wholesome naturalist-oriented recreation or study and in terms of national prestige. But by designating only 137,000, the Vucanovich-Hecht-Laxalt bill would overlook almost all of Nevada's spectacular, unique, and well-deserving wilderness areas. With 87% federal land, Nevada has more public land than any other state outside of Alaska. It is therefore incumbent upon those legislators in positions of authority today to see that the U.S. Public interest in wilderness is not sold down the river in favor of short-sighted and profit-motivated interests, such as livestock and mining, that greedily demand nearly 100% of all resources even at the cost of spoiling the natural world's most recognized pristine areas!

According to a 1980 Fish and Wildlife (U.S.) Service survey, at least 92 million Americans--nearly half the population--participate in non-consumptive wildlife appreciation activities in Nevada and other states. These activities include bird watching, hiking, and nature photography. To me personally, wild horse viewing is the most rewarding at present. Wildlife enthusiasts spend about $15 billion yearly on non-consumptive, wildlife-related activities, equipment, and travel. They spend several times the amount spent by hunters, fishermen, and trappers, annually, and should insist on a holistic, ecosystem approach to wildlife, both by state and by federal authorities. And adequate, not token, wilderness designation on public lands, such as those of the U.S. Forest Service in Nevada, coupled with strong protection of the pristine quality and integrity of these wilderness areas is what we all should mean and require in a holistic ecosystem approach!

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter and please do not hesitate in calling upon me for further testimony.

Sincerely,

Craig C. Downer, M.S.
P.O. Box 456
Minden, Nevada 89423

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF BOB FULKERSON, DIRECTOR, CITIZEN ALERT

Mr. FULKERSON. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, and members of the committee, my name is Bob Fulkerson, and I am the director of Citizen Alert, which is a statewide nonprofit organization that seeks to involve Nevadans in public policy decisions that affect our lives and land.

Citizen Alert is a member of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Coalition and supports the efforts of the coalition to organize and fight for Nevada wilderness.

In Nevada, over 4 million acres are under direct control by the military, more than any other State in the Union. Over 200,000 additional acres are pending to expand various bombing ranges. Mining, ranching, and recreating are not permitted on these areas. They're about as single use as any area can become.

Additionally, Nevada has been notified that seven sites are being investigated for possible Midgetman missile locations. This will undoubtedly require thousands of additional acres to be withdrawn for single use by the military.

Finally, if Nevadans allow the Department of Energy to dump high-level nuclear garbage in the State, at least 50,000 more acres will be permanently withdrawn. No one questions the need for a strong national defense, but it is evident that Nevada is becoming the national sacrifice area, the No. 1 location for whatever dirty project the bureaucrats in Washington can dream up.

Nuclear garbage dumps, missile bases, and bombing ranges do not attract tourists to Nevada. Wilderness is a fast disappearing resource and is sure to attract tourist dollars to the State in the years and decades to come.

My family has lived in Nevada for three generations, and I used to live on the Tonkin Ranch in Eureka County. Some day, I would like to take my children to the old stomping grounds, like Roberts Creek Mountains or the Rubies. But if they haven't been converted into bombing ranges or missile bases, I suspect their pristine qualities will have been compromised by man's industrial activities.

Many people take Nevada's high country forests for granted; we think they will be there forever. In the time of Homer, all of the Mediterranean was surrounded by pine-oak forests. Now they are totally gone. They were lost to fire, deforestation, goats, and the Roman fleet. They were not only gone, but they are forgotten. So, forests can disappear without protection.

Table Mountain, Arc Dome, Quinn Canyon, Mount Rose, Wheeler Peak, and the other areas recommended by Friends of Nevada Wilderness for wilderness status must be preserved.

And I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

We're going to have a short 5-minute recess, and then we're going to proceed immediately after that.

[Brief recess taken.]

Senator HECHT. Panel 13, come up.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 13 is Kent Howard, Pete Ferraro, Tim Fadda, Dennis Ghiglieri, Edward J. Lemons, and Robert Crittenden.

And the panel coming up to the front row: Keith Lee—that's panel 14: Keith Lee, Dr. Joel Berger, Kent Howard, and Tina Nappe.

Senator HECHT. OK. You want to start off?

STATEMENT OF KENT HOWARD

Mr. HOWARD. OK. My name is Kent Howard, I am a rancher from near the Jarbidge wilderness area. I wanted to read this affidavit; by the way, I support the bill that you have introduced in Congress. Since we got the reports in the paper of the meeting in Elko, we wanted to read this affidavit and get it into the record.

And this is signed by Dean Rhoads, State senator; Gaylyn Spriggs, assemblyman; and our mayor, Nick Holton, executive director of the chamber of commerce, and several other people who attended the Elko meeting. And here's the affidavit.

Mr. Bill O'Driscoll of the Reno Gazette Journal, in reporting wilderness hearings conducted in Elko, NV, on February 10, 1986, was irresponsibly biased.

The facts which should have been reported are that all the elected public officials who testified in Elko were opposed to any additional wilderness in Elko County; that wilderness in the Ruby Mountains would close the Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski; that a buffer zone has been recreated around the existing wilderness area of Jarbidge, NV; that the representative from the Shoshone Nation was opposed to all wilderness; and that of the 42 people who testifed, 33 were opposed to additional wilderness or supported the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill that would add 137,000 acres of additional wilderness, while only nine supported the Reid-Seiberling bill.

Mr. O'Driscoll's news article, which was headlined "Wilderness Backers Go on the Offensive," was worse than misleading; it was false. To falsely intimate that Elko is in favor of wilderness is so patently irresponsible that any articles in the Reno Gazette Journal regarding wilderness must be viewed with distrust, and any articles by Mr. O'Driscoll must be viewed with extreme distrust.

And I have given you copies of this.

My testimony was going to be concerning what a wilderness area would do for a sanctuary for predators, and I have firsthand knowledge of that because I live close to the Jarbidge wilderness area where there are many more deer killed by coyotes than there are by hunters. And the coyotes in the wilderness area would have absolutely no natural enemies. And I think that if it were not for the helicopters flying over the area where my cattle run now, which would not be allowed in the wilderness area, that they would wipe out the total deer population.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let's go right on.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD J. LEMONS

Mr. LEMONS. My name is Ed Lemons; I live in Reno, and I am here just as an individual representing myself and my family.

I don't think I could add anything philosophically to either side of the debate at this point, and I am not going to read a prepared statement. I have just a couple of remarks to make, Senator.

First, I urge you to take the approach to this wilderness matter that was urged upon you by Governor Bryan. I think that it is clear that a compromise is going to occur at some point, and I urge you to support 1½ million acres, but I don't think that's going to occur.

Particularly, I think the Ruby Mountains, omitted from your bill, must be given the most serious consideration for a meaningful wilderness area, and that would include also the East Humboldt Range. And I say that because that is the area with which I have the most contact, and that's a very personal interest on mine and my family's part.

In doing that, I would urge you also to preserve grazing rights and to assist with the impact of ranching in any way that it can be done.

I just have two other remarks. One is with regard to a national park. I think that a national park is the worst solution for that land. Wilderness designation is far preferable. One only needs to look at Yellowstone or Yosemite to see what happens when you designate an area of land as a destination resort. It becomes a fight to get a parking place, the wildlife suffers, and people do not have a good wilderness experience in a national park. In addition, I would add that the State can better maintain the wildlife management if that is not made a national park, but rather a wilderness area.

Finally, I signed up to testify here after hearing the executive director of the Nevada Mining Association say that hunters supported the Hecht bill. I am an avid hunter, fisherman, and camper. I think that is absolutely untrue. The elitists are those who have big four-wheel drive rigs, three or four all-terrain vehicles with small minirings in the back of their all-terrain pickups and who go blasting past hikers and others in areas where they have access.

One only needs to talk to outfitters, which includes a large number of ranchers in Wyoming and Montana, to find out what happens to areas that are not protected for wildlife—from mining exploration, let alone mining itself.

In closing, one hears Thoreau quoted quite often in terms of wilderness. I would like to quote Chic Hecht on wilderness from the Congressional Record. In introducing the Nevada Wilderness Act, you said,

> To the uninitiated, Nevada's Great Basin appears to be a barren, high-elevation desert between the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountain ranges. This is a false impression and anyone who has ventured even a few miles from Nevada cities or interstate highways will quickly tell you that the beauty of our nationl forests is one of the best kept secrets in the American West.

And I can thaink of no stronger argument for giving those areas protection sought by Governor Bryan and Representative Reid.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, and thank you for the commercial.

STATEMENT OF DENNIS GHIGLIERI, RENO, NV

Mr. GHIGLIERI. Thank you.

My name is Dennis Ghiglieri. As a frequent traveler of Nevada, I find that its greatest claim to fame is wildland. There is nothing so exhilarating as stepping forth into the wilderness, for regardless of the maps and preparation, it is still unknown adventure may lie ahead.

Today, Nevada is at a crossroads as evidenced by S. 722. To keep this wild country as it is or allow most of wild Nevada to be lost. The consumers of wilderness say no to preservation. There is never enough land to explore for the next bonanza, they say. Let the mining industry determine what is to be saved and what is to be used, they say.

And they have determined that what's to be saved is not much. But what of the rest of us? Nevada is my home, not merely a birthplace, although it is, but a place of spiritual awakening. I argue for more protected wildland. We need natural, wild places for the protection of the health and well-being of myriad of animals and birds, for the protection of watershed and scenic vistas. I would also point out that wilderness protection provides these benefits for free, no Federal dollars required.

Wildland, home to animals and plants which enrich our lives, as much to teach us, too. If it goes to be replaced by roads and Taco Bells, what will be special about Nevada then?

Mount Moriah, tiny Boundary Peak, and Mount Charleston, which are so incredible, would receive questionable protection under S. 722. This bill leaves out so many of Nevada's most beautiful and inspiring wild lands.

What of Arc Dome with its rugged canyons, aspen trees, and goshawks? What of the ancient archeology of Mount Jefferson and the incredible plateaus and gentle valleys of Table Mountain? What of the limestone cliffs thousands of feet above primeval forests of fir and pine at Grant and Currant and Quinn Canyon, What of the ancient forests of Mount Wheeler and Nevada's highest mountain range? Are we to leave all of this unprotected and unrecognized? And what of the Schell Creeks, enormous, vast mountain wonderland of meadows, spruce, forests, streams with deer and elk around every corner? What of the rocky, glacier polished Ruby Mountains with spires and waterfalls; and my mountain home of homes, Mount Rose, next to a city crying for more protection of its disappearing heritage.

These granite palaces of wilderness, always known to Nevadans, will become figments if they receive no permanent protection. Their wildness will evaporate all too quickly under the hot glare of development pressure. This is serious business. I urge protection of all these areas as wilderness as specified in the Wilderness Act, and the establishment of a 174,000-acre national park at Wheeler Peak. These areas are still tiny in the scope of so large a State, but precious all the same.

And I thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF BOB CRITTENDEN, RENO, NV

Mr. CRITTENDEN. Senator Hecht, Congressman Vucanovich, members of the committee, my name is Bob Crittenden, I'm a realtor in Reno, although previous to that I spent 35 years in the Forest Service and have followed the wilderness issue very closely in many parts of the country. And I can indeed agree with you, Senator, that Nevada has lands that do qualify for wilderness status.

I will make a prepared statement by your February 28 date. I just wanted to comment on some fears I heard earlier that the cost of administering a wilderness or land act after it has been designated as wilderness would merely skyrocket with all the controls. It is quite the contrary.

In fact, as someone earlier testified maybe they thought they were criticizing your bill in saying that all it would do would provide release of wilderness. Well, if it would do that, that would be a great service because we now have all this land tied up. We have the agency spending—diverting time to this issue and producing volumes of reports RARE I, II, and III and now the national forests plan is done.

So, I think that we can say that with budget constraints, we need to be looking at the way that the agencies can more effectively manage these lands and they can do it best when they are properly categorized and wilderness is a proper category for that.

So, I commend you on your bill, the courageous action really of 1 year ago, starting this issue off. It's pretty easy to come in later and say all sorts of things, but I think you will get it resolved. And my personal opinion is that it should be resolved, compromised somewhere between the Reid bill and this bill, which is about where the Forest Service study shows it is.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let's go right on to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Next panel is Keith Lee, Dr. Joel Berger, and Tina Nappe.

And I think we'll just call panel 15 right up along with them. Panel 15 is Audrey Cawthorne, Roy Bowers, Ken Fortney, Dick Minor, Gene Moore, Gene Gerdes, Fred Copeland.

Panel 16 should come up to the front row: Ken Taylor, Ellen Faryna, Dr. Phillip Altick, Don Molde, Susan Schley. That's panel 16 up to the front row.

Senator HECHT. Please start.

STATEMENT OF PHILLIP JOHNSON

Mr. JOHNSON. OK. My name is Phillip Johnson and I am representing Dr. Joel Berger who couldn't be here, and I have a prepared statement to read by him.

Senator HECHT. I'm sorry, but I have been informed we have not allowed replacements.

Mr. JOHNSON. I'll just present a few views of my own then while I'm up here, if you wouldn't mind.

Senator HECHT. I won't stop you, but we have not allowed any replacements today but I won't stop you. Go on.

Mr. JOHNSON. OK. Thank you.

I heard some speakers talk about the cost of wilderness, and personally I'm not an expert with the Forest Service or anything like that, but it would seem to me that the cost of setting aside an area for wilderness designation would be less than processing mining claims and establishing deforestation after timber management erosion control and things of that nature.

I would like to support H.R. 3302, and I feel that even that is not going far enough, but that it's a good compromise and that if the Senators could come up with a compromise that would be close to that, that would be, in my opinion, preferable.

I'd also like to state that I support the national park at Wheeler Peak. I am going to be getting married next May coming up and, you know, I would just like to say that I hope when I have kids and grandkids, that they can see wild matter, too.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue right on down there.

STATEMENT OF KEN FORTNEY, RENO, NV

Mr. FORTNEY. My name is Ken Fortney; I'm a resident of Reno, NV.

I'd like to talk about the Ruby Mountains. I feel that the Rubies are one of Nevada's hidden treasures. I've cross-country skied out there, hiked, fished, gone horseback riding, camping, and skiing. Of all the activities that I have engaged in out there, I think the most exhilarating has been helicopter skiing.

As I understand it, under certain portions of certain of the bills, helicopter skiing may be prohibited. I am against the prohibition of helicopter skiing in that area. I feel that that's one of the most exhilarating activities that an individual can enjoy.

In that regard, I read an article published by Sierra magazine regarding the trip taken by legislators and conservationists.

As a part of that I would like to read an excerpt:

> Just before noon, the helicopters came into view above the mountains, and a few minutes later they touched down in a sage, steady clearing near the canyon of the South Twin. Beautiful. Just wonderful, Seiberling exults. The whole thing ought to be a wilderness.

I think the point that he is making is a point that I feel everytime I ride in a helicopter: the exhilarating and breathtaking views that you enjoy when riding a helicopter in the Nevada area.

I support the bill H.R. 1685.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF AUDREY CAWTHORNE

Ms. CAWTHORNE. Panel, my name is Audrey Cawthorne and I have lived here in the Reno area for approximately 24 years.

I would like to refute the contention that a wilderness is used only by young superathletes with lots of special equipment. True,

you will find these people climbing cliffs and in the most difficult and distant terrain areas, but there are some nonrecognized people that show that they hike. Their number includes many like myself with physical disabilities from old injuries or respiratory problems, the elderly and just typical people of all ages of average physical ability.

We stay on trails for the most part and hike 6 to 12 miles a day which may be a day pack for lunch, water, or gas. Not infrequently, I have shared water and/or a snack with people who started up a trail just to get out of the car and have enjoyed themselves so much they end up several miles up the trail without food or water. These day hikers have little or no special equipment and in some areas of the Sierras, there are so many of us that the Forest Service has had to start permit system to limit the number of their uses.

A good case can be made for more Nevada areas just to help take the pressure off the Sierras. There is no limit to the number of people that will use these areas once they realize how easy it is to really hike. Hiking is the ideal exercise for people with limited physical ability because you can set your own pace and your own level of difficulty. I would prefer not to drive as far and use some of the nearby backpacking routes, but the vehicle traffic makes that hazardous as well as dusty.

Also, I have a fear of the stray bullets from the people that target practice on the trash in these areas. It's easy for the people in the vehicles not to notice the trash, but the problem is painfully obvious to those of us on foot.

I propose that if you want to find out the real uses of trails have a member of your staff come with me or other people as a guide to some of these areas, and do the survey of users' ages, physical impairment, the amount of equipment, and the usual level of physical activity. I think you will be surprised to find out it's not the backpacker that everybody thinks about using the wilderness areas.

These wilderness areas are not very deep; you can go 6 to 12 miles in them and see a tremendous amount of area. You don't have to backpack; all you have to do is get on your two feet and walk and you come back to your car. You don't have to backpack. Because I own a backpack, and I haven't used it for 12 years. I have covered many, many miles, and I am somewhat of a handicapped individual. It's not difficult. All you need to do is get out and walk.

And people are constantly being amazed on these trails. People stop and talk quite a bit, because I travel fairly slow. And they are just amazed at how simple it is. They say, "I never knew how simple it was to get out there and walk." And in other areas where they've developed trails, it's just so natural people are totally amazed. You don't need the backpack. All you will need to do is just get out and day hike. And you can see a tremendous amount of these areas with no special equipment; you're not elitists, all you need is your two feet, and it works wonderful.

Thank you gentlemen.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF RAY BOWERS

Mr. BOWERS. My name is Ray Bowers. I've been a Nevada resident for over 10 years. I have been an active outdoorsman all of my life, spending most of my free time in the mountains hiking, summer and winter camping, fishing, mountaineering, cross-country and alpine skiing.

I am truly in love with the wilderness. The protection of the wilderness is a needed measure to protect our wilderness area from manmade destruction.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to ride in a helicopter to the top of the Ruby Mountains. Helicopter skiing is by far the most exhilarating sport I've ever engaged in. The ride up in the helicopter is equally as exciting as carving 2,000 or 3,000 vertical feet of fresh tracks in the powder snow on the way down. Helicopter skiiers should have the right to continue their sport just as much as other recreationalists have their right to enjoy thier activities. I feel that helicopter skiing is a sport that is compatible with nature and causes no harm to the wilderness or environment. I believe that we must create a wilderness bill that will allow helicopter skiing to continue so that our children will have the opportunity to experience this adventure, as well as the beauty of nature in its total untouched form.

I support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GENE L. GERDES, PRESIDENT, NEVADA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. GERDES. Chairman Hecht, Representative Vucanovich, my name is Gene Gerdes. I am president of the Nevada Trappers Association. I have a short statement that I will read for the record here.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding wilderness and park proposals that are presently being considered for the State of Nevada. We laud your efforts in providing the several hearings at which citizens may be heard.

We wish to register opposition to the large wilderness and park proposals sponsored by Representatives Reid and Seiberling. However, we will lend support to the smaller wilderness proposal by Representative Vucanovich. Large wilderness areas would have grave effects to the fur industry through possible restrictions on trapping methods. We respectfully request that language be included in the wilderness legislation, specifically stating that all resident wildlife species be managed by the State of Nevada.

A Great Basin National Park proposed in the Wheeler Peak area is of special concern, as this would have a serious detrimental impact to trappers. Trapping of fur bearers is a historic and biologically sound activity in this area. Present national park policy does not permit trapping, therefore we must object to the formation of a Great Basin National Park.

We do not begrudge people's use of the Wheeler Peak area. It has great natural scratchings that all of us enjoy. The creation of a national park would eliminate the trapper at a time of the year

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when few, if any, other people would be using the area. Leaving this area under present U.S. Forest administration would preserve the area for future generations and still allow all of us to continue to use and enjoy the area.

This concludes our statement. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF FRED COPELAND, RENO, NV

Mr. COPELAND. Senator Hecht, Congresswoman Vucanovich, my name is Fred Copeland, I'm a resident of Reno.

I would like to point out that one thing I don't feel that has been covered by all the testimony so far that wilderness is not a guarantee of the wilderness experience. By that I mean that if I want to go day back packing or back backing or travel on a horse in a more used wilderness area, say, down in California, for instance, the Hoover Wilderness, I may have to wait for months to get a wilderness permit.

So, what has happened is that as they have developed wilderness areas throughout the country, then the bureaucrats start squeezing out everybody who wants to use them. And you have to wait—literally, if you want to go down and climb Mount Whitney or hike the John Muir Trail, you have to submit your reservations, in some cases, 1 year in advance. I know that causes vary depending upon the population that's going to use the area.

And what I would like to suggest to you is—I know that there is going to be wilderness set aside in Nevada—that you specify strict rules that these bureaucrats cannot come in and squeeze us out. There is no reason that if the trails are being overused that we can't go into another portion of that wilderness and go cross country.

There are many places where the restrictions have even been greater that they want to cut out horse traffic, that they want to put diapers on horses. You know, totally ridiculous. You have to carry out your own human waste.

And when you are considering this bill, I simply ask that you review all these crazy policies that have come out of these bureaucrats and see if we can't put language in the bill to head these guys off at the pass.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. And thank for bringing up new information. This has been brought to my attention in many letters, and you're the first one that's brought it up today. Thank you very much.

Let's go right on the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. I'll call up both panels 16 and 17.

Ken Taylor, Ellen Faryna, Dr. Phillip Altick, Don Molde, Susan Schley, Pat Young, Howard Winn, Matt Benson, Roy Mobert, Norm Walthers.

That's both panels 16 and 17. OK. And we'll call panel 18: Elmer Rusco, Steven Alastuey, Karen Tanner, Dr. Colin Fuller, Don Costar.

We'll ask panel 19 to come up to the front row. Panel 18 can go right on up. Panel 19 is Bill Peppin, Nancy Laird, Karl Bodenhofer, Patricia Swain.

Senator HECHT. Are you ready?

STATEMENT OF KEN TAYLOR

Mr. TAYLOR. My name is Ken Taylor, I'm from panel 16.

I support Reid's bill. The types of ecosystems to be protected by this bill are not represented in our Nation's current wilderness system. Passage of this bill would ensure that these outstanding areas which are really unique and only found in Nevada would be protected.

Conflict with mining is greatly overstated. Several areas have no active mining claims at all. And other areas, only minimal potential. The trend toward large low-grade ore deposits places new facilities on the basis of worn edges, not the high peaks and ridges that are included in these proposals. Mining is important but so is wilderness. One percent of the State is not too much to ask for.

This is not an elitist approach. The elitists, I would suggest are those that can afford several hundred dollars a day to go heliskiing or expensive off-road vehicles.

I would like to see more wildernesses than what is proposed by Reid, but I realize we have to make compromise. I think Reid's bill is a good compromise.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much and thank you for summarizing.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN SCHLEY

Ms. SCHLEY. My name's Susan Schley, and it's spelled wrong on that paper, it should be e-y. I'm a physician in Reno and practice ob–gyn, and I have taken the day off from my practice so that I could express to you personally my support for H.R. 3302, and further for inclusion of other wilderness areas in an ultimate bill, especially the Sweetwater and the Toiyabe, which are special places to me.

The value of preserving wild places in their innocent state is intangible and we'll never be able to quantify or tally on a profit-and-loss balance sheet. But once wilderness is gone it is irretrievable.

Unlike almost everybody else who expressed testimony today, I only moved here 4 years ago and I moved here from Philadelphia. But the reason I moved here was so that I could be closer to the mountains and the deserts of the West where my heart and psyche have found a wonderful resting place.

I have twin infant sons and one of my daily dreams is exploring such wild places with them, and thereby being able to teach them about love and respect for their world and their fellow creatures, and to show them the symbiosis of nature.

I know that having come from the crowded and overpopulated East that retaining wild places must be a priority for us all. I feel that Harry Reid's bill is already a compromise, and I hope that we don't need to compromise too much further.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. And thank you very much, Doctor. Thank you for taking off.

Next, please.

STATEMENT OF NORMAN WALTHERS

Mr. WALTHERS. My name is Norman Walthers, I've lived in Nevada for 45 years, and I am here to express my opinion. And I would like to see no more new wilderness.

And I'm on the board of directors of the Jarbidge Water Association. And even with Senator Hecht's proposal, it's going to infringe on the headwaters of Bear Creek, which we get our town water.

We have been going into this area for 4 years and live there now around 8 months of the year. Also, my children and grandchildren go up there to hunt and fish. I'm well aware how many backpackers go in, and that there are very few compared to the many families that would use this area had the old roads been left alone.

If we have to have more wilderness, the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill is by far the best. And I would like to see the lines of that proposal changed slightly.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Howard, go ahead.

STATEMENT OF HOWARD WINN, RENO, NV

Mr. WINN. My name is Howard Winn, and I'm a resident of Reno. And I am here because, as you know, Senator, I've had a longstanding interest in the public lands of Nevada. It is important that Congress does not designate wilderness in Nevada for the wrong reasons.

One hears a common emotional plea for wilderness proponents that we must save this tiny 1 percent of our lands of Nevada for the benefit of future generations. I know that this is a sincere and noble thought, but entirely misdirected. Wilderness designation in Nevada will not save much of anything.

There is a substantial amount of public lands in Nevada that is underveloped and meets the dictionary description of wilderness in every way. These wilderness lands have survived 120 years of statehood and multiple-use management. During the past decade, they have been fixed in place through the advent of land use planning and control by the Federal agencies, as required by congressional directive.

While the size and shape of individual wilderness areas may change to a modest amount from time to time, there is every reason to believe that over all Nevada wilderness lands will be much the same in 2086 as they are today.

While wilderness designation by Congress will not save or significantly increase increase the amount of wilderness lands in Nevada, it will effect an important change in the management policies applied to these lands. The historic multiple-use management will be changed to one that turns the wilderness into a natural laboratory, and where nature is allowed to take its course.

Multiple-use management directs and shapes natural forces towards a resulting ecosystem that is beneficial to the people of Nevada.

Wilderness management, however, bows to the uncertainties of natural forces and we must accept the results good or bad.

The people of Nevada depend heavily on the multiple-use-managed lands of Nevada for the economic benefits they can glean from natural resources contained thereon, for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors, and as a continuing source of the precious water supply for the driest State of our country.

We can ill afford to chance the vagaries of nature as a management system for any of our public lands of Nevada without a very good reason to do so. I hope that Congress will exercise its good judgment and designate wilderness only where an outstanding contribution to the national wilderness system is created.

I recommended passage of the Hecht-Laxalt bill after you take a second look at the proposed Jarbidge addition and eliminate it if it does not significantly add to the national wilderness system.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Howard.

Next.

STATEMENT OF ROY MOBERT, JARBIDGE, NV

Mr. MOBERT. My name is Roy Mobert. The purpose of this testimony is to oppose any wilderness bill, as it is not needed.

We don't need the wilderness area we now have around Jarbidge. I can't see why we need more. In my experience and observations in the years I have been in Elko County, since 1961, plus 14 years as a resident in Jarbidge and a bar owner, I observed very few people using the now-existing wilderness area over the years.

Last July, Congressman Seiberling and the Sierra Club came into Jarbidge and stayed overnight. They refused to meet with us, the citizens of Jarbidge.

I oppose all wilderness, but your bill is at least more reasonable.

I've got an affidavit here. We had a meeting which I think was February 1. This was the town people what was there, I think there were 19 people.

This is what it says, this is an affidavit by the citizens of Jarbidge.

> After the Jarbidge wilderness was established in 1964, the Forest Service began creating a buffer zone around it. One example of that buffer zone is the South Canyon Road up the Jarbidge River above the town of Jarbidge. Phil Joyal is 66 years old, he is the constable of our town, and he affirms that the road was in before he was born. That road was developed by private parties without government help or interference.
>
> The Forest Service changed the original route. A few years after the area was designated wilderness, the road sloughed off and the Forest Service refused to reopen the road or to allow private individuals to open it.
>
> As a result of the closure of the road, which is just outside the present wilderness, the older people of Jarbidge are no longer able to get to their favorite picnicking and camping areas. Also hunters and wood gatherers and others have been adversely affected.

You listen to the news over TV plus newspapers. This Government is trying to balance the budget. It seems to me that if a lot of politicians would quit spending money on such foolishness, as these

wilderness bills which are not needed, to prove their own existence and importance, we could balance the budget.

That's it.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mobert follows:]

TESTIMONY

ROY K. MOBERT
702-488-2313
Red Dog Saloon
Jarbidge, Nevada 89826

My name is Roy Mobert. The purpose of this testimony is to oppose any legislation in regard to any Wilderness bill as it is not needed!

At a meeting in the Jarbidge, Nevada Community Hall last year we were informed by Bob Eastman of the Forest Service that regardless of what took place there would be further expansion of the now Wilderness area, regardless! (His words)

We don't need the Wilderness area we now have around Jarbidge. I can't see why we need more. In my experience and observation in the years I have been in Elko County, since 1961, plus fourteen years as a resident in Jarbidge and a bar owner. I have observed very few people using the now existing Wilderness area over the years. Also, why try to create more Wilderness within Elko County or the State when we already have plenty of Wilderness by nature itself, as its inaccesable.

I always thought we had a democratic government. But have lost faith in that. Also others have expressed this same feeling to me! It looks like to me that where this affects so many people within this county plus the entire State of Nevada and others that we as residents of this State should be able to vote for or against such a measure and not be dictated to by an outsider such as Seiberling. I always thought that we were governed by the will of the people and not by a few.

Last July Congressman Seiberling and the Sierra Club came into Jarbidge and stayed overnight. They refused to meet with us the citizens of Jarbidge. Why? There were FBI agents with them. For what purpose? For the agents to protect them against us? Or protect us against them?

I was told by a Forest Service Employee that for these 20 people the Forest Service furnished fifty horses for these people to ride and pack back into the Wilderness area. At who's expense? I am sure it wasn't theirs.

You listen to the news over t.v. plus news papers. This government is trying to balance the budget. Seems to me that if a lot of the politicians would quit spending money on such foolishness as these Wilderness bills which are not needed to prove their own existance and importance we could balance the budget.

I oppose all Wilderness but your bill is at least more reasonable.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF STEVEN ALASTUEY

Mr. ALASTUEY. I'm Steven Alastuey. I favor retaining Nevada's unique wilderness lands for officially designated wilderness. Its value has been very underestimated in the past.

As a carpenter, I have worked in remote areas and small towns of Nevada. Oftentimes sources of rest and recreation were traveling the countryside and picnicking by foot as well as getting there by vehicle.

Twenty-two months ago at Valmy, I sustained a dislocated shoulder which ended my career in heavy construction. Since then, a major source of inertia to work for health and reorganize my direction in life was the inspiration inherent to nature. Activity provided by nature illuminates life appreciation in detail enhancing energy for productiveness.

Wilderness is education. Wilderness has long been close to my life being of shepherd descendents and born in Nevada. I have often taken it upon myself to clean up various amounts of trash left outdoors by the careless. Trash is unhealthy, unsightly, and unsafe.

There exists many desert acres in which miners and others may practice. To open a proposed wilderness and Great Basin National Park areas for all use would upset generations and loss of irreplaceable value.

Many visitors now use Nevada to appreciate wilderness. Therein is an important economic consideration. A better lifestyle needs more wilderness. Shared land use may be practical in some fringe areas but more responsible guidelines should be observed.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TANNER, AS PRESENTED BY PETER BRADLEY

Mr. BRADLEY. Karen Tanner is an elementary school teacher in Washoe County. Her testimony includes the testimonies of many of her students. Will you allow me to read them today?

Senator HECHT. Yes. Are you on the list?

Mr. BRADLEY. Karen Tanner is.

Senator HECHT. OK. Continue.

Mr. BRADLEY. As a teacher, I view the wilderness issue as critical to our children and their future quality of life. They will inherit both our gains and our mistakes.

We discussed the issue of Nevada wilderness in my classroom. We outlined the multiple uses of the public lands, the benefits, and impacts of each use, the pros and cons of wilderness designation, and the composition of the wilderness bills in the House and in the Senate.

Lastly, I instructed the students to write their own testimony as to what should be done with these roadless public lands. The results were as follows: 4 were in favor of the Senate bill, 3 in favor of a bill midway between the House and Senate bills, 18 in favor of the House bill, and 2 in favor of all roadless areas as wilderness.

Here is a selection of their testimonies:

I think that we need to save the wilderness for the next generation and animals. So, HR 3302 is my best choice. And the State of Nevada will have room for cities and mining.

That's William Davison, age 11.

Mica Gallagher, age 11 said:

I prefer the House bill 3302 because instead of roads, you can have lookouts points and nature trails, and we need wildlife and outdoor facilities.

Jennifer Zeigler, 11 years old:

I think the HR 3302 is the best because people need places to take vacations and animals need places to be free like we are.

Rachel Ziegler, age 10:

I prefer the House bill because you can have it for animals so they won't die. And if you want to go camping in the mountains, you can just walk. It will give you good exercise.

Matt Ellenwood, age 10:

I agree to the HR bill 3302 because if we only have four wilderness areas, the animals will be driven out of their homes and die.

Jennifer Shipman, age 11:

My opinion is neither one. I think that it should be somewhere in the middle like eight wilderness areas because the animals need homes, because the people also need minerals and lumber and things like that.

Tim Billings, age 10:

I think the Senate bill because you can ride motorcycles and just drive anywhere you want.

Casey Shull, age 11:

I prefer the Senate bill so we can camp out and ride our motorcycles and if we need coal or other minerals, so we have it when we need it.

In conclusion, speaking for myself as a 13-year resident of Nevada, I consider the Friends of Nevada Wilderness position to be most beneficial for Nevada. Those 21 areas represent the best of what Nevada has to offer the Nation.

Lastly, I wish to emphasize that wilderness is a way of showing that we value our heritage as a nation. It shows that we have trust enough in our children to leave them sizable portions of lands about which they can make future decisions. It shows that we have restraint as a nation.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. BRADLEY. OK. It shows that we have heart enough to leave lands for wildlife, even if we have nothing to gain in dollar terms. It shows that we have soul enough to recognize our spiritual roots in wilderness.

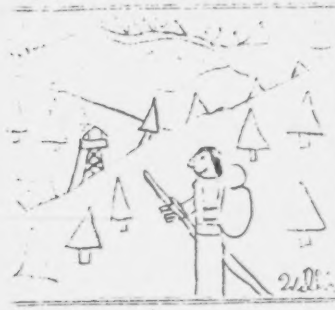
[The prepared statement of Ms. Tanner follows:]

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY TESTIMONY : KAREN M. TANNER

WILDERNESS IS A WAY OF SHOWING:

- THAT WE VALUE OUR HERITAGE AS A NATION.
- THAT WE PLACE TRUST ENOUGH IN OUR CHILDREN TO LEAVE THEM SIZEABLE PORTIONS OF WILDLANDS ABOUT WHICH THEY CAN MAKE FUTURE DECISIONS.
- THAT WE HAVE RESTRAINT ENOUGH AS A NATION NOT TO USE UP EVERY LAST PORTION OF OUR PAST, OUR LAND.
- THAT WE HAVE HEART ENOUGH TO LEAVE LAND FOR WILDLIFE, EVEN IF WE HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN IN DOLLAR TERMS.
- THAT WE HAVE SOUL ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE OUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS IN THE WILDERNESS.

TESTIMONY FROM 2 OF MY STUDENTS:



I think that we need to save the wilderness for the next generation and animals. Sa H.R. 3503 is my best choice And the state of Nevada will have room for cities and mining.

William Davis

Age 11

I prefer the Desrete bill so we can camp out and ride are motor cycles and if we need coal or other minerals is we have it when we need it.

Casey Shull age 11

KAREN M. TANNER
1640 DAVIDSON WAY
RENO, NV. 89509
322-5215

NEVADA WILDERNESS FILE
TESTIMONY
2-13-86

DEAR SENATOR HECHT:

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN 3 CAPACITIES: AS A MOTHER, AS A TEACHER, AND AS A NEVADA RESIDENT.

AS A MOTHER, I SUPPORT THE 21 PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS AS OUTLINED BY THE FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS BECAUSE EACH IS OUTSTANDINGLY QUALIFIED, BUT I WISH TO VOICE AN EMPHATIC SUPPORT OF MT. ROSE FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. I HAVE ENJOYED THIS AREA, SUMMER AND WINTER, WITH MY CHILDREN SINCE THEY WERE 4 AND 6 YEARS OLD. THEY ARE NOW 18 AND 20 BUT OUR MEMORIES OF BACKPACKING AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING THERE ARE A STRONG FAMILY BONDING. IT AMAZES OUR OUT OF STATE FRIENDS TO LEARN THAT WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF OUR FRONT DOOR WE ARE IN SCENIC SOLITUDE THE LIKES OF WHICH MOST PEOPLE MUST TRAVEL HOURS TO REACH. MY CHILDREN HOPE TO SHARE THIS HIDDEN TREASURE WITH THEIR CHILDREN SOMEDAY. IT IS A DEFINITE BENEFIT OF URBAN RENO-CARSON AREA LIFE TO RESERVE SUCH AN ACCESSIBLE RECREATION RETREAT. THIS FACT ALONE CAN SELL OUR AREA AS A QUALITY PLACE TO LIVE.

AS A TEACHER, I VIEW THIS ISSUE AS CRITICAL TO OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FUTURE QUALITY OF LIFE; THEY WILL INHERIT BOTH OUR GAINS AND OUR MISTAKES. WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF NEVADA WILDERNESS IN MY CLASSROOM: WE OUTLINED THE MULTIPLE USES OF THE PUBLIC LANDS, THE BENEFITS

AND IMPACTS OF EACH USE, THE PROS AND CONS OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE WILDERNESS BILLS IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. LASTLY, I INSTRUCTED THE CHILDREN TO WRITE THEIR OWN TESTIMONY AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THESE ROADLESS PUBLIC LANDS. THE RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

4 - IN FAVOR OF THE SENATE BILL

3 - IN FAVOR OF A BILL MIDWAY BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS

18 - IN FAVOR OF THE HOUSE BILL

2 - IN FAVOR OF ALL ROADLESS AREAS AS WILDERNESS

AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY TESTIMONY YOU WILL FIND MY STUDENTS OPINIONS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AS I HAVE PROMISED THEM.

LASTLY, AS A 13 YEAR RESIDENT OF NEVADA, I CONSIDER THE FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS POSITION TO BE THE MOST BENEFICIAL FOR NEVADA. THOSE 21 AREAS REPRESENT THE BEST OF WHAT NEVADA HAS TO OFFER THE NATION. EACH OF THE 21 AREAS IS QUALIFIED AND FULLY DESERVING OF WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. SUCH A SMALL TOTAL OF LESS THAN 2% OF THE STATE WOULD YEILD GREAT PROFIT FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF NEVADA. WE ALL REALIZE THAT THE BACK-PACKERS, HIKERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, ARCHEOLOGISTS, SCIENTIST AND WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS WOULD BE PLEASED; BUT LET'S CONSIDER HOW OTHER NEVADANS WOULD STAND TO GAIN:

THE RANCHERS WOULD BECAUSE THEY WILL RETAIN THEIR RIGHTS TO GRAZE AND MAINTAIN RANGE IMPROVEMENTS. THEY WOULD BE BETER PROTECTED FROM DRY ARROYO AND GULLIES. WATERSHED WOULD BE PROTECTED AND THEREBY WITH IMPROVED GRAZING RANGE.

3)

THE MINERS WOULD PROFIT BECAUSE NO EXISTING MINES WOULD BE CLOSED AND MILLIONS OF ACRES WOULD BE RELEASED FROM SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR THEIR USE. THE PROPOSED AREAS ARE ONLY THOSE OF SPECULATIVE MINERAL POTENTIAL AND THE MOST INACCESSIBLE, THEREFORE THE LEAST ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO MINE.

THE ORV USERS WOULD GAIN BECAUSE NO ROADS THAT ARE PRESENTLY OPEN WOULD BE CLOSED AND MILLIONS MORE ACRES OF ROADLESS AREAS WOULD BE RELEASED FOR THEIR POTENTIAL USE. ALSO, THE AREAS PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS ARE THE LEAST ACCESSIBLE AND THEREFORE LEAST FEASIBLE FOR ROADBUILDING.

THE HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN BENEFIT BECAUSE WILDLIFE WILL BE PROTECTED AND FOSTERED TO INSURE FUTURE ABUNDANCE. WATERSHED AREAS ARE PROTECTED AND IMPROVED TO SAVE SOME OF OUR BEST TROUT STREAMS.

THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WILL GAIN SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE WILDERNESS PROVIDES DIVERSIFICATION FOR OUR ECONOMY AT A CRITICAL TIME. A GOOD WILDERNESS BILL TELLS THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION THAT WE VALUE OUR SCENIC LANDS, THAT WE HAVE AS MUCH OR MORE TO OFFER IN BEAUTY AND RECREATION AS OUR NEIGHBORING STATES - CA, OR, NV, ID. THOSE STATES ADVERTISE THEIR SCENIC WONDERS, WE SHOULD FOLLOW SUIT. AS THE MOST MOUNTAINOUS STATE IN THE WEST, WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR WILDERNESS OUTSIDE OF ALASKA, WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF OUR WILD AREAS AND PROMOTE THEM.

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT WILDERNESS IS A WAY OF SHOWING THAT WE VALUE OUR HERITAGE AS A NATION. IT SHOWS THAT WE HAVE TRUST ENOUGH IN OUR CHILDREN TO LEAVE THEM SIZEABLE PORTIONS OF WILDLANDS

ABOUT WHICH THEY CAN MAKE FUTURE DECISIONS. IT SHOWS THAT WE HAVE RESTRAINT AS A NATION NOT TO USE UP EVERY LAST PORTION OF OUR PAST, OUR LAND. IT SHOWS THAT WE HAVE HEART ENOUGH TO LEAVE LAND FOR WILDLIFE EVEN IF WE HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN IN DOLLAR TERMS. IT SHOWS THAT WE HAVE SOUL ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE OUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS IN WILDERNESS.

I think we need to save the wilderness for the next generation and animals. So H.R. 3030 is my best choice. And the state of Nevada will have room for cities and mining.

William Davison

Age 11

My opinion is neither, I think that we should keep all the wilderness, and maybe tear down 2 or 3 because thier to close to the city. Then in years to come maybe tear more down and transfer animals to better ones. Are you worried about old people, well if we didn't tear the wilderness down they could see them while thier young. For the handicapped make paths, or on some of the wilderness make it for only handicapped and their friends or family they need with them.

Miesha Marzell age 11

Rebecca Williams age 10

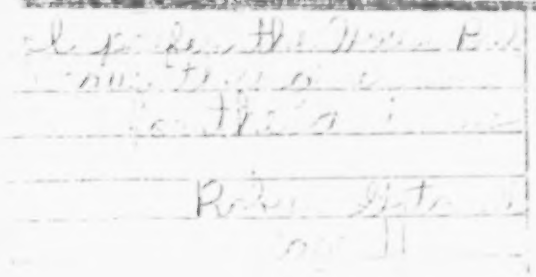
My opinion is Neither Bill. Because I think we should keep most of the wilderness, but along the sides of the wilderness to camp for public people so the people could have vacations there and learn more about the wilderness.

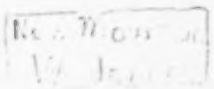
I prefer the house Bill 339 because we need more wild life and outdoor recreation

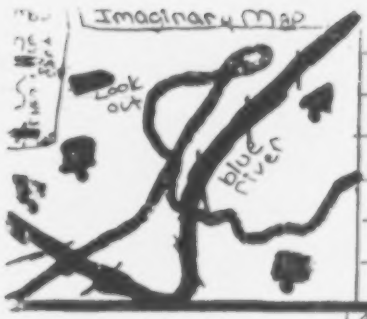
Tracy Lynne age 11

I prefer the H.R. 3302 because the animals need more Wilderness.

Tracy J Murphy
11





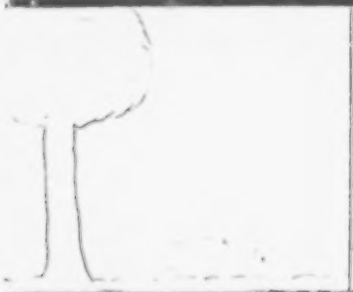


I prefer the House bill 3302 because instead of roads, you could have lookout points, and nature trails, and we need wildlife and out door facilities

Mica Gallagher
age 11

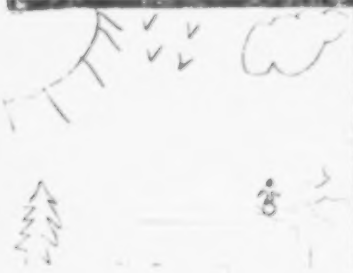
I think the H.R. 3302 is the best because people need places to take vacations and animals need places to be free like we are.

Jennifer Ziegler 11 years old



I prefer the house Bill 3302 Because so you can have it for animals so they won't Die and if you want to go camping in the Mountains you can just walk it will give you good exercize.

Rachel
Ziegler Age 10



I agree to the H.R. 3302 because if we don't have [illegible] to be driven out of their homes and it's MATE [illegible]

H.R. 3301

I prefer we need more area for the animal cause if we don't grow it will go extinct.

Jeremy Powell
AGE 11

I prefer the House BILL 3302, Because the animals should have lots of grass to eat.

Name Tiffany Wyatt
Age 11

I prefer the house bill so the animals don't go extinct.

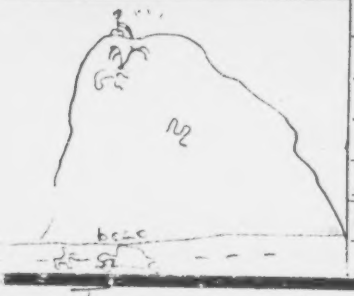
Cecil Hughes
Age 10

My opinion is H.B. 3302 because I think they are giving more wilderness for mines and mining and hunting.

Raena Martin
10

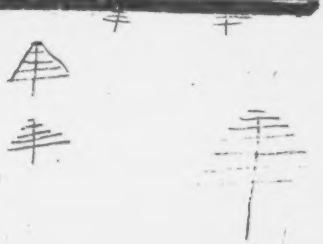
I prefer the House bill because the animals don't go extinct.

Cydney Holub
Age: 10



I prefer HB 3502 because if the senate wins it may scare off the animals out of the mountains and some might get run over by the cars like some mountains are by roads.

From [illegible] age 10

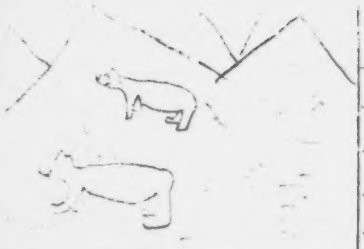


I prefer The House B. II because we need more -and for animals.

Brittany Freeman
Age - 10

My opinion is for the House Because we need more Wildlife Corridors for the animals and birds.

Richard Cristo
Age 11



I [illegible] 20% [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Scott Leigh
age 12

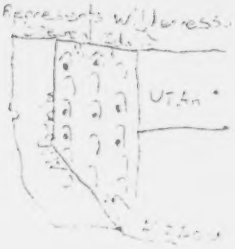
I would prefer the [illegible]
Cause it is better for [illegible]
stuff. It will [illegible]
dare to ride. And it is
[illegible] fun. I like it. Rabbit
will D[illegible]

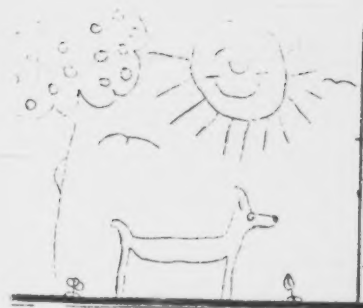
My Opinion is, Neither one.
I think that it should be somewhere in the middle, like 8 Wilderness areas, Because the animals need homes, and the people also need minerals and Lumber and things like that.

Jennifer Shipman
Age 11

I prefer neither because 12 is too much and 4 is not enough so I think there should be 8 wilderness areas.

Lyf Jo Ann Evans Age 11





I [illegible] we should get the money ... where the money is not anybody [illegible] that about people that can't ... or people who can't walk in the woods ... they are too old or have a handy ... we should build roads where they're needed most (Kristi Smith) 10 ½

Name Tooo, age 10½ Bill
I vote for the Senate because you can ride car's, motorcycle's, buses, trucks and a lot more.

Name John Cusumano, age 11
I vote for the Senate Bill so you can go four wheeling.

I think the senate bill because you can ride motorcycles and just drive any where you want.

[illegible] Tim. Bill

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel No. 19: Bill Peppin, Nancy Laird, Karl Bodenhofer, Patricia Swain.

Panel 20: Ann Hibbs, John Morrison, Susan Stornetta, David Miles, Diane Hatton, and Terry Woodin.

Senator HECHT. And again I would like to remind witnesses not to substitute without notifying the head table because it is unfair to the rest of the witnesses.

Let's get panel 20 up. You two are on panel 20, right? You might as well go on up there.

OK. Want to identify yourself and start in.

STATEMENT OF BILL PEPPIN, ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF MOUNT ROSE

Mr. PEPPIN. OK. I'm Bill Peppin, representing a group of Nevada residents called the Friends of Mount Rose.

As a group, we voted to endorse the Reid bill, H.R. 3302, and to urge Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich to do the same.

Let's compare acreage set aside as wilderness in States neighboring Nevada. Now, California has 2 million acres, Oregon, 700,000 acres; Idaho, 1.4 million acres; Utah, 800,000 acres; Arizona, 2 million acres; as against only 65,000 in Nevada.

Why is it that the neighboring States have seen good reason to set aside wilderness areas, whilst we have not? Most of them have substantial mining and agricultural interests, as we do. And indeed mining is the principal activity in the State of Montana, which has the greatest wilderness acreage of any of the lower 48 States of 3½ million.

The reason is partially because legislators from Nevada have had the impression that we don't care for wilderness. I would like to correct that impression by appearing at this meeting as a representative of over 100 Nevadans.

In supporting the creation of the Nevada wilderness areas, I join many others speaking at this meeting today as well as millions of westerners, most of whom are niether particularly rich nor privileged, who make regular use of wilderness areas. The setting aside of wilderness is almost always recognized in hindsight as an act of wisdom and as a necessary step for preserving our national heritage. Without them, numerous species of plants and animals would simply vanish from the planet. And without them, modern man would be denied an experience that many now count as an essential part of life in our fast-changing technically oriented society.

The Hecht-Laxalt bill is shamefully inadequate in its omission of the creation of the Great Basin National Park. Our Snake Range is, by any measure, of significant scenic, historic, and geographical caliber to be recognized along with other great western parkland. Having produced the oldest known living organism and containing the only glacier in the eastern great basin. These lands should be elevated to national park status without further delay.

The omission from the Hecht-Laxalt bill for wilderness lands in the Carson Range is almost equally disturbing. Under the pressure of burgeoning population and the assault of relentless developers,

the Carson Range is in need of protection so that thousands of Washoe County residents can continue to have access to those unspoiled lands so close to home.

H.R. 3302 creates a set of Nevada wilderness areas that properly protects some of the finer regions of the State, including Highruns, the Toiyabe, Toquima, Ruby, and Monitor Mountains.

If we do not act wisely today, our successors will rightly condemn our shortsightedness. The Friends of Mount Rose and I personally urge your support of H.R. 3302.

Senator Hecht and Representative Vucanovich, thank you for considering these comments.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF KARL BODENHOFER, VIRGINIA CITY, NV

Mr. BODENHOFER. I am Karl Bodenhofer from Virginia City. I am speaking for myself.

I would like to go on record as supporting H.R. 3302 which contains 14 wilderness areas and Nevada's first national park at Wheeler Peak of the South Snake Range.

Many people think of Nevada only as gambling and sand and sagebrush. A national park would change that image and encourage tourists to visit some of the more remote areas of Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. And thank you for summarizing.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF NANCY LAIRD, WASHOE VALLEY, NV

Ms. LAIRD. My name is Nancy Laird and I live in Washoe Valley. I am a registered nurse and I operate the Wild Animal Infirmary for Nevada.

Now, what Waif is: Waif is the acronym for Wild Animal Infirmary, we provide medical and surgical care for the wildlife. And this is wildlife that comes from all areas of Nevada. It's trucked in by Department of Wildlife, it's brought in by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and it's also flown into the airport in Reno.

As I say, we are a medical group. So, everything is just like a human hospital or veterinary hospital. It's all the best of care. I'm an RN, I do the nursing care. I oversee the nursing care.

Now, when these critters are well and ready to go, that's a great day. We take them out and we release them. We were incorporated in 1978. And since that time, I have noticed that we are really getting pinched for areas where we can release these critters, because Gardnerville is kind of filling up, down along South Virginia where all of the development is—the buildings are being built, the homes and such, those are great red tail areas for release, but they are no longer. So, we're really beginning to feel the crunch.

So, we think that the H.R. 3302 with a lot of wilderness would really fit our bill. In fact, we would like to double it or triple it, and just let us know where these areas are that have limited access by people, and that's where we will take our eagles and our owls and our hawks and our falcons for release.

That's it.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA SWAIN

Ms. SWAIN. I'm Patricia Swain. I'm here representing myself. I'm speaking out in favor of the wilderness bill as designed by Congressman Reid with the additional acreage recommended Friends of Nevada Wilderness, only because that seems to be the most you can get. If we could get more I would be in favor of more. I am also speaking out in favor of the Great Basin National Park because I'm strongly in favor of as much wilderness area as we can get.

Teddy Roosevelt said, "Nine-tenths of wisdom consists of being wise on time." And I think that's a very appropriate quotation for what we're talking about today. I think we have the opportunity to at least begin something that is desperately needed, and that is the preservation of wilderness.

I grew up in New York City. I came here 12 years ago. I've lived in other places too, and I have seen what happens when overdevelopment takes over an area, and I have seen what it's like to live in a vastly overpopulated with all the problems that brings with it. And I remember as a young girl having fantasies about the West, about wild horses and all those wonderful things.

Then coming out here and finding that it was true, even beyond my fantasies. I have seen antelope, I've seen badger, I've seen bald eagles, and it's been some of the most thrilling experiences of my life and I think that is the strong point of Nevada. I think that is what makes Nevada a unique and wonderful place to be.

And I also find that in my role as a school counselor, which is my profession, where I go for spiritual refreshment and where I go—is the wilderness what I can reach in a weekend isn't much. I think we need wilderness further away from home because any of the easily accessible hiking areas are already littered, four-wheel drive, and so forth.

So, those are my sentiments. And I can't add too much to what has been said here already, except I'd like to close up with a quotation from John Muir. He says:

> Climb to the mountains and get your good tidings, nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees, the winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF DAVID MILES

Mr. MILES. My name is David Miles, and my wife and I have Sierra RV in beautiful downtown Steamboat.

I took a motorhome, a 33-footer, with the Friends of the Wilderness and followed the helicopters around last summer. I was the driver and I enjoyed myself very much, which may not have been said enough is how much fun it is, how terrific it is to be out there in that beautiful country.

I recall that Senator Hecht and Congressman Seiberling and myself were jumping rocks along the side of the creek right below

the dome there, and pretty soon, as would happen, somebody fell in. It was the Congressman, and he fell in the creek pretty good. He got all wet and he crawled out of there shaking his feet off and acting a little bit like it wasn't cool for a Congressman to do that, but I couldn't help but see the smile on his face. He was having a great time. We were all 10 or 12 years old again, jumping along that creek and just having a swell time.

I hope that that creek is always available for anybody that's our age to want to act 10 or 12 again and go for it.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. May I interrupt 1 second to just tell David that I had to take Congressman Seiberling to the hospital that night and we spent 2 hours over at the hospital, and he's been taking therapy ever since.

Senator HECHT. You might want to act 12, but your body's not 12.

Mr. MILES. He hit it pretty well. You never know.

Senator HECHT. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MORRISON

Mr. MORRISON. My name is John Morrison, and I am here as a citizen of Nevada and of this country, and one of that group for whom decrepitude seems to be the word. I can still climb a mountain and hope I'll be able to, and I am looking forward to a preservation of the mountains we have, plus a few more for that purpose some day.

You asked me not to repeat and you have asked others not to repeat. I will not. By saying that I support the bill for the larger area, including the national park, and I believe most of these things to be of exceeding importance, and I will not give the reasons why I support it, since you've heard them all.

I will have some comment about some reasons I've heard on the other side, however, as follows: It does seem to me that much of the objection to this measure comes from people who are involved in a kind of hostility against the Federal Government. That's all right with me, I guess. Perhaps Members of the congressional delegation might comment on which particular outsiders they do not wish to tell us what we are to do. We listen to some, apparently, and are uged to listen to some. And we send Representatives back to Congress, I suppose, to represent us.

And this leads me to wonder, for three-quarters of this delegation, I wonder why we're not leading the fight for the preservation of these lands instead of seeming to oppose it and quoting statistics which emphasize—which you had heard in other communities—and the people that couldn't make it to those communities have come to this one today to comment still further and add to your statistics.

It seems to me that I should ask what it is that people who trumpet the fact that they're conservatives are conserving. It appears that they want to conserve as little as possible. And it seems to me odd that this should be so. I do perceive, however, what the pressures are and recognize that they are considerable upon you.

So, I would add that the support that I feel for this, I daresay, would be strengthened and perhaps some people who couldn't make it to Reno today because they have to work may get down to Las Vegas, and I daresay a number of people down there will also approve it.

I am not sure how you will arrive at statistics on this, except that you assured us, Senator Hecht, that you would listen. I hope that when you said that, and I believe it, that you might be capable of changing your mind. If that is so, then I will hold out better hope for preservation of these lands than at the moment I feel disposed to do.

One more comment, and then I'll have done, which has to do with posterity. I have heard talk here which has suggested that the children can take care of themselves and so on.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. MORRISON. All right. And I suggest that as long as we are giving them the biggest debt in the history of the planet today, that we might do something nice for them and save them some wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Please go on.

STATEMENT OF TERRY WOODIN

Ms. WOODIN. OK. Terry Woodin.

I have lived here for 20 of my 52 years. My children spent their formative years here, and whenever we go back to the lush forests and busy cities of the East we yearn for the wide open spaces of Nevada.

It is for these specific reasons I've fought for wilderness designation for at least the 14 areas in the bill currently before the House, and appeal to you to put aside political differences and unite to support a measure which will benefit all citizens of this State.

Surely, Senator Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich, you and your aids must have been impressed by Nevada's wilderness resources during your helicopter tour last summer. Let us preserve those precious resources, such areas as Mount Rose, the Santa Rosas, Wheeler Peak, all gems in their present state, but threatened for destruction if released from protected status.

I will devote my remaining time to examine some of those arguments that are antiwilderness.

First, wilderness is for the young and vigorous. That's poppycock. I can no longer be accused of being young and vigorous, yet I have enjoyed hiking in the wilderness areas.

Sixteen years ago, our whole family, including a 6-month-old on my back, a 3-year-old holding my hand, hiked Wheeler Peak. They still remember that event. It brought us together as a family.

Last summer, I hiked and camped at Mount Rose with a group ranging in age from about 25 to about 60, and including Californians who had come just for the wilderness experience. Someday, if I live long enough, I know I would find it difficult to reach some of these areas, but they will still be part of my memories, and I will enjoy knowing they are there ready to be enjoyed by others.

That wilderness will lock up our lands, is another argument, denying its use by Nevada citizens. Again, poppycock. This is the sort of argument that one usually hears advanced by people who represent out-of-State interests, such as ex-Congressman Jim Santini. In the same newspaper article where I read that Mr. Santini supported surely not more than four areas of wilderness in Nevada, I also read that he was a lobbyist representing two large out-of-State mining firms.

Traditionally, the precious resources of this State have been exploited by people who lived elsewhere. As an example, during the great silver boom of the 1800's, the riches taken from the hillside of Virginia City went primarily to pave the streets of San Francisco and not to this State. Today the same is true. A town in eastern Nevada discovered its nearby watershed polluted by a Canadian mining firm, land developer sell a fine crude lot and leave a mess.

The argument that wilderness threatens a major Nevada interest, mining is specious that that will contribute only a trivial amount to our income. No competent, responsible mining firm's concern for the interest of this State could object to these 14 areas. Ranchers and others say we want the land kept as it is. I have heard this same argument from Representative Vucanovich.

Well, these 14 areas are currently managed as wilderness. Permanent designation of wilderness assures these 14 areas will continue to offer technology, important resources for the ranching and tourist industry. Open areas for hunting and fisherman and well-preserved archeological and scientific resources for future study.

Current and future users of these areas can continue to use them unhindered by locked gates, keep out signs, and ruined hillsides.

Senator HECHT. Terry, your time is up. Please summarize.

Ms. WOODIN. I have one sentence.

How marvelous if by October 30 of this year the Nevada delegation and Congress would give the people of this State the best possible birthday present: At least 14 areas preserved as wilderness.

Senator HECHT. Thank you and thank you for joining us on the helicopter tour. We appreciated it.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is John Meyers, Maria Metko, Barbara Cheng, Nancy Walker.

And then let's call up panel 22 also. Val Burnett, Kathleen Weaver, John Champion, Patty Smith.

Panel 23 is Catherine Smith, Tom Puckey, Kirk Peterson, Shelia Lelie, David Hornbeck, Pete Bradley, Susan Bradley. If they will come on up to the witness table, too.

Then panel 24 up to the front row: Patsy Hammond, Tom Gregory, Russell Highfield, Robert Erlich, Nancy Peppin, Barbara Bennett.

Senator HECHT. OK. Would you please start.

STATEMENT OF MARIA METKO, RENO, NV

Ms. METKO. Yes. Hello, my name is Maria Metko and I'm a Reno resident.

And I just want to say that since I've been sitting in this meeting practically since it started, I've been hearing comments a little bit

perturbing, to me, especially from people from the mining industry that are completely against wilderness.

And I look at the back here where these sand dunes are a lot of them were caused from way back when we had the strip mine and that going on. And I wonder, what are you going to do when it's too late, when you don't have any wilderness? How are you going to feel then?

And the point here is that the choice and decisions we make now are going to affect us later. And when it comes to wilderness, when you destroy it, it takes years and years before any of it ever comes back and we've got to make that choice now.

But I hope that you make the right choice, not just for future generations, but just because it's the right thing to do and I'm for the wilderness H.R. 3022 or whatever it is, I would like to actually see the 41 areas.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I'll tell you what, move the microphone the other way and let this lady catch up with you right here.

STATEMENT OF PAT HARDY LEWIS

Ms. LEWIS. Thank you. My name is Pat Hardy Lewis, I've been a citizen in the Reno-Sparks area in the State of Nevada for upward of 30 years. I want to make a statement that I wholeheartedly support House bill 3302.

As a mental health professional, I know the value of experience in the outback as a spiritual fix, renewing, connecting with my own finiteness, and yet my own sense of place in the universe. Learning to survive there gives the sense of competence and confidence in facing the obsessive stresses in the complex kind of lives that we live in the urban settings.

We have such things as Outward Bound for kids and adults that teach leadership and survival skills. In the past, there's been a program with the Reno Police Department that took troubled kids to the eastern part of the State, in the Ely-Elko area, to give them the experience of surviving in the outdoors.

It gives one a sense of ability, self-esteem that they can handle themselves in what could be called an exotic environment. It's an environment that's very different than the cityscape that we usually live in.

National and State parks often become instant towns without the kind of traditions and knowing one another that gives one security and the mores of the rules that are built in for consideration in a town. That's a whole different setting than what you find in a wilderness area.

I'm not going to duplicate or repeat all of the other things that naturalists, environmentalists have spoken as far as the values of preserving a wilderness—incidentally, wilderness is not something we're making, you know. God and Mother Nature got together and did something for us, and it's up to us to preserve these special gifts.

It's been alleged that wilderness designation has unacceptable constitutional implications. If that were so, how is it that the western States of California, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming,

Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and New Mexico, each have between 1 and 4 million acres that are so designated without constitutional challenge?

The economic impact of wilderness, I think, is important. I believe that it's the positive one, because nothing offers much to the State tourism, and economic development agencies are launching campaigns to attract business to rural Nevada that's kind of spreading the goodness abroad so it doesn't get concentrated in the cities. Both agencies are highlighting the beauty of Nevada lands as one of the State's main resources. When you talk to people that live here and want to locate their businesses here, that's one of the amenities that they look at for their employees. Wilderness helps preserve these assets and attract a variety of users, all with money in their pockets.

Wilderness enhances that part of Nevada's economy, which contributes most to the State in terms of both numbers and jobs and dollars generated, namely tourism and retail sales.

There are no working mines and few mining claims and little mineral potential in the areas proposed.

Senator HECHT. Your time is up, you'll have to summarize.

Mr. LEWIS. And the one final comment I would make is in response to, why these particular areas. Because they're wild and beautiful and contain features found nowhere else. Their best and highest use is as wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank You.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF VAL BURNETT

Ms. BURNETT. My name is Val Burnett and although I am a member of the Gold Prospectors Association of America and of the Comstock Gold Prospectors, I am here today as an individual.

I am an outdoor rider and an outdoor enthusiast. The out-of-doors is the main reason why I moved to Nevada several years ago. There were a lot of other reasons like the climate, but more than that, I liked the western attitude and the mentality and the environment that was northern Nevada.

Unfortunately, with this wilderness issue, there are two things about it that frighten me very much. One of them—and I make no pretense at knowing anything about the Forest Service rules—was a comment, or rather a conversation I had last year with a member of the Forest Service out at Mono Lake. This person told me that in a particular wilderness area that I was asking about, that no motorized or mechanized vehicle would be allowed in their under any circumstances.

And, of course, my question was, "What do you do in the event of a forest fire?"

And he said you wait for them to get a permit for bulldozers and trucks to come in here because they, too, cannot come in without a permit.

So then my next question was, "Well, then what happens to the fire?"

And he said, "It burns."

Well, so much for wilderness preservation.

The other thing is the governmental bureaucracy. I don't like that in any form, I don't think any westerner does, and it is threatening to overtake a beautiful and fairly unspoiled land, and I think that we must support those people who will fight to keep Nevada open and free. And, therefore, I do support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

The freedom promised our ancestors so long ago is compromised by groups that would like to close our lands, taking away the freedom to enjoy the out-of-doors. As a long-time camper and a short-time writer of Nevada history, I think this would be tragic.

I can't help but wonder if wilderness areas are not the first step in the removal of the people's right to enjoy their own lands to be harnessed to a specific area by the Government. So, what comes next, gun control?

It is a proven fact that wilderness areas are not enjoyed by many people because of the very nature of their regulations. It is an unworkable solution to the preservation of lands. If few people are able to enjoy the land, then who will get the benefits? There are enough national forests and parks to suffice any environmental groups.

Isn't it strange out-of-State interests are the most vocal when it comes to locking up Nevada's lands? We have politician in this State who has stated recently that he is a Nevadan for Nevada. And in the very next breath he declared that a majority of the State be included under the wilderness area. But for whom? His friend, the Congressman from Ohio, who had never hiked through the sagebrush to thrill at the site of an abandoned town from Nevada's past, particularly if he couldn't use a motorhome.

Obviously, the Congressman from Clark County has never enjoyed the camping, the hunting, the fishing or anything else that Nevada offers its people. If he, along with elected easterners and Californians have their way, no future Nevadans will ever be able to see or enjoy this State.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF PATTY SMITH, SPARKS, NV

Ms. SMITH. Patty Smith, Sparks, NV.

I have been employed in the mining industry for the past 40 years, but I have lived in Nevada over 30 years. In that time, I have not witnessed the rampant destruction referred to by overzealous so-called environmentalists.

I highly resent anyone lying to me about an industry that has contributed so much to this State as well as to this Nation.

I have spent a great deal of my own time looking into all sides of this important issue, and I am greatly concerned about the many, many adverse impacts that will follow in the wake of any wilderness single purpose designation.

To me, a wilderness area means: No watershed controls; limited fire controls; loss of management for rangeland and wildlife programs. If you want you can't go back in and replant on a watershed and you can't do the physical structures that a wildlife man-

agement program requires, we're going to lose many, many millions and thousands more dollars for programs that we have had in the State of Nevada, in effect, for many years. And I resent that.

To me, it's limited access for a very few healthy individuals or those who own horses; a police force to keep us out; potential loss of water rights to downstream users, and that, by the Colorado case, does very definitely affect us; adverse economical impacts on the entire State's economy.

Whether we want to admit it or not, strategic critical minerals and the access to minerals are what makes our life go. There is nothing in this room that has not come from a mineral resource. And if you want to give it all back up and put on a loin cloth and a leaf, then you might as well walk out of the room now and give up.

All of these things mean additional costs to the residents of this beautiful State. I consider it insanity to institute Government controls over areas already isolated by Mother Nature, and she doesn't keep raising my taxes to do it.

I sincerely support your bill S. 722 because you, Senator, have taken the time to listen to the people of Nevada. You are not making stupid statements such as "paving the Truckee Meadows," and "making open pit mines out of all the mountains tops." These statements show an extreme lack of understanding on this issue and a complete ignorance of the mining industry, and all of the controls imposed upon it, and those controls are many.

The rights of the few should not override the rights of the many. Please do not put my land away for future use, let me use it now.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF PETE BRADLEY, RENO, NV

Mr. BRADLEY. My name is Pete Bradley, I reside at 1775 Evans Street, Reno, NV.

As a student of wildlife, biology, and a resident of this State for 24 years, I am familiar with much of Nevada's wildlife resource. Twenty-five species of wild fauna have become endangered in Nevada in the last 125 years.

The reasons for Nevada's endangered wildlife are the same as those found throughout the world. They represent some form of habitat destruction. The alarming decline in wildlife populations across America is directly related to human-induced loss of wildlife habitat.

For example, prior to the arrival of European man, mountain lions ranged from northern British Columbia to the Straits of Magellan, and from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts. No other land mammal in the Western Hemisphere had a more extended historical range. By the 1920's in the United States, lions were restricted to mountainous areas of the West and a few swamps in Florida.

In other words, lions have been largely exculpated in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Habitat elimination through human conflict being the ultimate cause of their decline. Wildlife habitat destruction is, by law, unacceptable in officially recognized wilderness areas.

Given that wildlife habitat destruction has historically followed all European man migration in northern America, and given that Nevada currently has the second highest human population growth rate in the Nation, at 13.8 percent per year, Nevada can expect intensified pressure on its remaining wildlife habitats.

The protection of wilderness in Nevada would help alleviate pressures on wildlife caused by increasing human population. Wildlife habitats would be permanently preserved in those areas. Nevada would be assured a reservoir of lands for our native wildlife.

Federal land agencies responsible for the wilderness inventory has determined that only 15 percent of Nevada has wilderness potential or that only 15 percent of the State could legally be designated wilderness. I assume that the Federal Government may choose not to recognize officially the entirety of Nevada's wilderness resource.

However, given that the official protection of wilderness lands in Nevada is in essence the official protection of 15 percent of Nevada's wildlife habitat from further man-induced deterioration, the best future for the survival and reproduction of endemic wildlife in Nevada lies in the official congressional designation of all remaining wilderness areas.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF KIRK PETERSON, RENO, NV

Mr. PETERSON. My name is Kirk Peterson, I live in Reno.

First, I would like to lodge a formal protest. I was told this meeting would be from 9 a.m. to noon. I got the morning off. As soon as I found it was going to run over, I spent the next 2 hours trying to convince my employer to let me come back here, which he did.

Many people were not able to do that, even though you've opened it for their printed testimony, I think many of them will be disappointed enough not to, and I protest the mismanagement of this hearing. You are eliminating the working people, the backbone of this State of ours. You are eliminating hearing their testimony. And I just want to read that into the record.

I come here to speak as an individual, but no matter what I say, my words are going to be lumped into one or two categories, for that is what we have reduced wilderness to. Wilderness cannot be so categorized. Wilderness simply exists. It cannot be created by people, Congress, presidents, or kings. Wilderness can only be recognized, and once recognized, be permitted to continue or consumed to squeeze and destroy until only a scarred wasteland is left of what was once the most beautiful of Nevada's natural heritage.

Many people have spoken today of wilderness compromise, but I can see no compromise, only an antiwilderness token bill in the Senate and the defeatist environmentalist bill in the House.

When the wilderness process began, the Forest Service inventories were 5 million acres. Out of this acreage, only 1.5 million survived on its merits of beauty and wildness to become wilderness. To me, that is compromise.

I would like to think that we are a rich enough people in body and spirit to set aside 2 percent of our State, just 2 percent for beauty and wonder. Yet, obviously from the bill before Congress,

we are nothing more than a desperate greedy people who have lost the ability to dream.

I come before you today, Senator, to ask—no, at this point, I think asking is not enough. I come before you today, Senator, to beg you to reconsider wilderness, to look to your heart and see wilderness not as a political football or a tool of ambition nor a placebo for greed, but to see wilderness as a necessary vitamin for the help of the human mind and spirit. I beg you to give us a wilderness bill worthy of Nevada's scenic spendor.

And if looking into your heart you see only darkness and refuse to understand what wilderness really means, then I beg of you, Senator, to remove yourself from this committee and forfeit your powers on wilderness to those to whom beauty and wonder still temper decisions, those who could give freely the gift of 2 percent of the greatest grandeur of our State to all the people of Nevada and all the people of this Nation.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

I just wanted to reply to your protest. Certainly, I do not think you are wrong in any way.

I had no idea in Washington when I set up these hreaings that there would be such a tremendous display of emotion. And it just goes to point out that we are trying to bring this issue to the people of Nevada. This is the fourth city we have been to and tomorrow we're going to be in Las Vegas. It just shows how the House of Representatives was so callous as to have one hearing in Washington, DC, and not bring it out here.

If a special trip back here to hear the people who haven't been heard is warranted, I'm going to do whatever I can to make that trip. I know you are protesting to me, and you're not wrong.

May we go on.

STATEMENT OF SHEILA LESLIE AS PRESENTED BY DAVID ORR

Mr. ORR. Yeah. I was told that I couldn't read this because I was given it by a woman who can't be here because she's working.

Senator HECHT. Just put it into the record, that is correct.

Mr. ORR. OK. Well, I'm not going to do that because that just shows me that this is a facade and that you are not really here to listen, but it's just a formality.

Senator HECHT. Are you on the list?

Mr. ORR. No, I'm not. I'm here to read this.

Senator HECHT. Well, we had a list. We asked everyone who wanted to testify to sign up on that list. Everyone abides by the same rules.

Mr. ORR. OK. Well, she has the 3 minutes designated. I'll use that, if that's all right.

Senator HECHT. All right. Go on.

Mr. ORR. Thank you.

As a concerned Nevada resident, I feel it is my duty to participate in the wilderness bill here. I urge you to hold future hearings at least partially in the evening hours in order to allow citizens who work during the day a chance to voice their opinions themselves.

I'm very much in favor of Congressperson Reid's bill as amended by the House Public Lands Subcommittee. As you well know, the wilderness decision made in Congress will have vast ramifications for future Nevada generations. I, for one, do

not wish to have to tell my children that the public lands were sold out to further the economic interests of a few mining or construction companies.

While I strongly support all the proposed wilderness areas, in the interest of time, I would like to address my comments to two specific areas in an attempt to persuade you to expand your vision of Nevada's spectacular wild lands.

Last September, my husband and I gave our father-in-law a special 50th birthday present: A pack trip to the Green Monster Basin of Table Mountain. We hired the services of Timberline Outfitters from Tonopah, and journeyed by horseback into the upper reaches of the mountain. During our 3 days in the area, we fished in virtually untouched streams, hiked for miles in the fall aspen colors, and with the expert help of our guide, managed to sneak within 10 yards of a magnificient six point elk.

I understand the Nevada Congressional Delegation landed by helicopter in the Green Monster Basin during a House Subcommittee wilderness tour, and were so impressed by the serenity and peaceful nature of the area that many members declared it to be the most beautiful potential wilderness area that they had ever seen. I can only hope that if you were with the Committee on Table Mountain, you will do your best to protect it for other Nevadans.

The other proposed wilderness so close to my heart and that of almost every Reno citizen, handicapped, elderly, young, and healthy, is Mount Rose. Even those not able to hike to the top of the peak gather strength from its towering presence throughout the day. If mining and other special interests are allowed to deface our mountain, it will be yet another signal that the economic benefit of just a few people have won over the needs of the vast majority of ordinary citizens. The people of the Truckee Meadows need Mount Rose.

I realize that you, Senator Hecht, along with Congressperson Vucanovich, have probably made up your minds that 137,000 acres of wilderness is sufficient for what you deem special interest of those of us who favor wilderness. But once you allow these incredibly special Nevada lands to be stripped of their minerals, timber, and other resources, you will have prevented untold future Nevada generations from experiencing Nevada at its very best. For their sake, as well as ours, I urge you to reconsider your plan to abandon these spectacular lands.

And I am speaking for Sheila Leslie who couldn't be here.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

I allowed you to speak, but I will tell everyone in the audience it is not fair and no one else will be allowed to speak for anyone else.

Please continue.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN BRADLEY

Ms. BRADLEY. My name is Susan Bradley.

Nevada is second only to Alaska in percentage of lands and public ownership. But among Western States, Nevada has the lowest percentage of land in a national wilderness preservation system.

Our delegation in Washington has the power to change this and to bring us up to par in terms of protected wilderness resources. Nevada is a beautiful State, and as the other western States have done, we should protect its wilderness for future generations to enjoy.

The Ruby Mountains, East Humboldt, the Santa Rosa's, Wheeler Peak, and Mount Rose and the others, deserve wilderness designation. They are some of the most beautiful areas in the State.

Deep down we yearn to know that place of such a peace still exists. We are all connected to wilderness. What we have left, we should treat with care.

I support House bill 3302.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let's go right on now to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 24 is Patsy Hammond; Tom Gregory; Russell Highfield; Robert Erlich; Nancy Peppin; Barbara Bennett; Tom Purkey.

Senator HECHT. OK. Would you please start in?

STATEMENT OF JOHN RICHMOND, RENO, NV

Mr. RICHMOND. I'm John Richmond from Reno, and I thank you for your patience.

It seems to me that we allow so much of our land to be exploited by special interests groups, such as the Navy, the Air Force, the nuclear test site, the nuclear waste dump, mining, and so forth, that you would want to set aside as much lands as possible in its natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Nevadans are becoming increasingly aware of what a beautiful State we have, as witnessed by the interest generated in the BLM/Forest Service land swap fiasco.

So, for your own political consideration, Senator, you may want to expand the small amount of land set aside in your bill. I would personally like to see part of the Ruby Mountains, Mount Rose, and the Arc Dome area definitely included.

Hopefully, the human race will survive for centuries to come. People down the road may want to make their own decisions on how to best use the beautiful State of Nevada. As our country grows, untouched areas are going to become more and more popular for tourism. In fact, if we advertised on the majestic mountain ranges as much as we do our gambling, the results may be surprising.

I don't consider myself a selfish elitist who wants the lands for myself and for those of similar interests. On the contrary, I want to leave as much of our fragile land as possible for future generations to enjoy. Who knows, they may be more aware than we are about the best and safest way to use and enjoy Nevada Wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF TOM GREGORY

Mr. GREGORY. Tom Gregory of the Great Basin Range.

I originally came to talk about solitude and the values of wilderness, but I've been compelled to address the controversy I have heard here today, which is symbolic of an end to an era, and era that has continuously failed to negotiate due to an unwillingness to pay attention to the consciousness in support of wilderness and other recreational standards for public lands.

The new era is this: That the public has awoken and has just begun to gain an equitable share of public lands. Special interests, such as certain mining groups, and others, should stop spending money on certain politicians and, I might add, money earned from public resources, but rather on the cost to work with, negotiate with, and collaborate with the public in setting higher standards for the use of public lands.

The sooner these interest groups begin negotiating with the public in good faith, we'll be able to share equitably.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you have much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF MERI McENENY, CRYSTAL BAY, NV

Ms. MCENENY. Good afternoon. I would like to lodge a protest to these cups. They should say, "Escape to Nevada," a beautiful place.

Senator HECHT. I have no jurisdiction over that.

Ms. MCENENY. My name is Meri McEneny, and I am a home owner in Crystal Bay, NV.

And this same kind of controversy and polarization has gone on in the Tahoe basin for years, I'm sure you're all aware of it, and happily it's going to be resolved soon, at least it sure looks that way. And it's really coming together up there.

These same kind of forces, people that want development, the people that don't want development. And the middle ground is really what will be best for everybody and I think that the people up there are certainly seeing that.6

The designated wilderness up there is downright crowded and it is well used and it is well cared for. The areas of Mount Rose, I've hiked extensively on the east shore of the lake, beautiful areas, and I am sure they will only continue to grow in their use as well, just like all wilderness areas are.

I supported the minimum, the 14 roadless areas. I would like to see them continue to be roadless. I took time off from work today to be here, I don't take time off work to go hiking, but I am here today because I hope that when I do go hiking, those places are still there for me.

Mr. father, however, takes time off for meetings to go hiking. He's 70 years old and he has hiked extensively in this State and worked here for many years and he very much supports wilderness and he is out there all the time in it, and he just loves it. And it has enriched his life no end. And I know that's what it does for everyone's life. And I commend you for being here and your patience.

And thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Please continue.

STATEMENT OF GARY INNESS, RENO, NV

Mr. INNESS. Senator Hecht, the committee, my name is Gary Inness, and I am a resident of Reno, NV. I want to thank you for extending this hearing and for your continued attention.

I support H.R. 3302, the more extensive wilderness package. In particular, whatever the final bill is, I hope you consider including the Mount Rose region. I feel it is important due to the proximity of these lands to Reno to protect them. They are subject to extensive population pressure and for a lot of major benefits to Reno citizens.

It has been claimed today that outside interests claim to lock up Nevada lands. Yet, I look over the witness list today and I see only Nevada citizens, except perhaps the lobbyist who testified today. I don't have their residence requirements on paper.

When you mentioned Morris Udall today, it made me think of when I lived in southern Arizona. Tuscon, as you probably know, is in the desert, and there grows the suardo cactus, a mighty plant. It takes a century to mature. People there sometimes are inclined to want to destroy these plants. I have seen them hacked by hatchets, blasted by shotguns, mowed down by chain saws by the score occasionally, and sometimes flattened by four-wheel drivers.

Of course, this is a small minority of irresponsible people who do this sort of thing. But the point I want to make is that it only takes a small irresponsible minority to destroy in seconds the work of centuries.

And secondly I want to note that most of this destruction occurs near roads, and all too often there is a pile of empty beer bottles lying nearby. And the farther away you get from roads, the less of this destruction you see. And it is for this reason that I support wilderness legislation in Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Would you please continue.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA BENNETT, RENO, NV

Ms. BENNETT. Barbara Bennett, Reno, NV. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard, Senator.

When I hear the head of our Government refer to fertilization of covenant assets—or perhaps I should more thoughtfully label such assets as those of the Government, for it is in fact the general public who has bought and paid for them. When I hear that process referred to as a garage sale, I become more than a little upset. It's a feeling that sometimes as though I'm standing by and having my pocket picked by experts.

Sooner or later, much of the land under debate here today will be privatized if it is not preserved as wilderness. How do I know this? Well, I'm certainly no expert. However, one need not be an expert to realize that if this were not the case, those who stand to benefit financially from your bill would not be so anxious to convince us that "we"—and that we is in quotes, because I don't know who they are or I'm not one of them—that we will suffer economically by preserving these lands for future generations.

Senator, I mean no disrespect to those people, but, after all, there are more ways to suffer than economically. A national treasure once lost can never be replaced.

Personally, because of age and/or health, there are a lot of things my husband and I can't do any more, but that doesn't mean that we abdicate doing away with all of these things, you know, like bowling alleys and tennis courts, just because we don't want to enjoy them. Perhaps that sounds like a foolish analogy, but I think it helps to make my point. Because John and I may no longer be able to enjoy wilderness activities, we certainly would not want to deny those marvelous opportunities and adventures to future generations.

So, seniors do care, Senator, but perhaps for different reasons.

When our children were growing up, we could not afford nor did we particularly want to jet off to some sophisticated vacation spot

or some far away wilderness, and so we made frequent and marvelous use of those truly open spaces that were reasonably close to home. Vacations and weekends of that kind were in fact our main source of recreation and regeneration.

Now, our children are married, and with their children, their main source is still hunting and camping and fishing and hiking. Why, for very much the same reason that we did all those things when they were growing up when we were younger. We enjoyed it, it was healthful, affordable, family-oriented, and the beauty and serenity of the wilderness affords about the only remaining means of escape from our busy, dizzy, everyday world.

Senator HECHT. You'll have to summarize. Your time is up.

Ms. BENNETT. I can't put a number on the amount of acreage that should remain as wilderness. In my opinion, we have already lost too much irreplaceable land, be it wilderness, greenspaces. I believe that we should save every remaining acre that we can.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF TOM PURKEY, RENO, NV

Mr. PURKEY. Thank you. My name is Tom Purkey from Reno.

This State owes much to our mining industries. They have been responsible for a great deal of our history and today they still provide a unique spirit that lives on here in Nevada.

Ranching and mining are responsible for the economy or rural Nevada. But I look at Austin, Gabbs, Tonopah, Round Mountain, Beatty, Caliente, Pioche, Ely, Ruth, McGill, Eureka, Mina, Ione, not to mention Aurora and Leadville, and I have to wonder: Where is prosperity? Where is the prosperity created by mining and ranching in rural Nevada?

These are some of the poorest towns in our Nation. Both mining and ranching are severely depressed industries with no turnaround in sight. We can't depend on them in the foreseeable future to bring prosperity. The economic forces affecting them are mostly beyond our control. We should continue doing what we can to support mining and ranching, but not at the expense of locking out new types of businesses, and that's just what we're doing if we lock up all our land for mining.

I believe we need designated wilderness areas to help diversify the economy of rural Nevada and help it tap into the mainstream of the outdoor recreation industry, which is one of the fastest growing, most promising business sectors in this country. Wilderness provides the heart of the outdoor experience. Designated wilderness areas appearing on State maps are the magnets that drew outdoor recreationists. Those marked areas say that rural Nevada has something great to see, and it does. It's time to stop hiding our magnificent wilderness lands. It's time to designate them as official wilderness areas and use them to attract new kinds of businesses to rural Nevada.

The ability to experience wilderness is what brought me to the West and to Nevada 10 years ago. I was raised in Indiana where there is no opportunity for that experience. My first wilderness trip opened my eyes and touched something deep in my soul, and every

time I return to a wilderness area, that happens all over again. It's a precious experience to me.

Please help save Nevada's wilderness for me, for us, and for our children and grandchildren. We need all of the 939,000 acres and more.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

There is going to be 5-minute break so the public stenographer can rest her fingers for a few moments.

Tony Bevinetto from the committee staff and Mark Brown from my staff will be here. I have to catch a plane. Congressman Vucanovich had to leave town. We have been held 4 hours longer than we expected.

But the hearing will continue and I will read the complete record. I promise you, and so just after the 5-minute break, reconvene and get started again.

I thank all of you for your patience.

[Brief recess taken.]

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 26 is Catherine Sanders; Dennis Tristram; Cynthia Richardson, Michael Walker; Denise Trease; Brian Quinn; William Moore.

And let's go on to panel 27: Leonone Haimowitz; Anita Bowen; the Kersten family. That's 27.

On deck, panel 28 will be: Steve Lybarger; Robert Harvey; Steve Hocker; Trevor Thomas; Simon Simonin; William Van Arsdale.

OK. Proceed.

STATEMENT OF BRIAN QUINN, RENO, NV

Mr. QUINN. I'm Brian Quinn from Reno. I am a registered nurse working in this community, and a student at the University of Nevada at Reno.

I consider the Reid bill, H.R. 3302, as the minimum wilderness legislation, and expecially would like to reiterate support for the Mount Rose area for wilderness consideration due to its proximity to the highly populated and polluted areas we are in at present.

Children can go into wilderness. My pregnant wife and myself have hiked in wilderness and I have carried my infant sons into these areas. My 6 year old son has hiked into wilderness and thrived upon it. Seniors have led hikes I've appreciated.

I also support exploring the possibility for allowing the present Heli-Ski operation in the proposed park for wilderness designation to allow them to be exempt so they can continue their operation.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next.

STATEMENT OF CATHARINE SANDERS, RENO, NV

Ms. SANDERS. My name is Catharine Sanders, I'm a third generation Nevadan. I reside in Reno. And I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My testimony is in support of Representative Harry Reid's wilderness bill 3302 calling for 933,000 acres of wilderness in 14 areas plus a national park at Wheeler Peak in White Pine County.

There are many reasons why this setting aside of wilderness areas in a wise move in a positive direction. Wilderness areas are assets to any State in its citizens. All of our neighboring Western States have already recognized the value of wilderness, and have set aside significant amounts of their most unique and beautiful areas to be protected.

I would make to points in favor of wilderness. One is the educational value of wilderness to students of all ages and teachers. The continuing education division at the University of Nevada—Reno for years has conducted a field study class in the Jarbidge wilderness in northeastern Nevada. This is Nevada's only designated wilderness area at this present time. During the summer course, students learn about the area's plant and animal natural history. The wilderness becomes a classroom. So, the testimony that wilderness would lock out any learning opportunities is not true, because we have been conducting studies involving students and teachers for years.

The area provides a unique field back for the students. They study, among other things, flowering plants, birds, insects, and wildlife. This summer, 1986, UNR is offering three sessions of the Jarbidge wilderness course. Nevada has many other beautiful areas suitable for study which would be designated as wilderness areas and protected. Nevada students and teachers should have many different areas to study. Once the wilderness designated is not available, this type of educational value is forever lost.

My second point is that there is a notable absence of mineral claims in the proposed wilderness areas. Many of the companies that would like to see every inch of our State wide open for development are indeed foreign-owned mining firms. Since their only interest is to take what they can get from our State, to make as much profit as possible, it is obvious that they look upon saving anything for wilderness with disdain.

Nevadans have much to lose by having their wild areas destroyed. We as residents should zealously protect our most beautiful areas from commercial exploitation. The selfish profit goals of foreign corporations especially, should not dictate the future for Nevada's most beautiful wilderness areas.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness.

STATEMENT OF ANN R. KERSTEN, RENO, NV

Ms. KERSTEN. My name is Ann Kersten. I was born and raised in Reno.

I wish to express my strong support for Congressman Reid's bill H.R. 3302 as amended, plus the areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

I feel the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill designates far too few areas and leaves out some of the very best places in our State. Two of my favorite places on Earth are Table Mountain in the Monitor Range and the East Humboldt Range. I would be heartbroken to see these places ruined. And at the rate our State's growing, there

is no doubt in my mind that will if they're not protected. And once they're gone, they're gone for good.

I feel a decent wilderness bill, including a national park will really enhance our State's image and be invaluable to economic diversification that we must have to make it into the 21st century.

Companies want to come to States that can offer a good quality of life for their employees and their families. Outdoor recreation is a big part of that. A few years back, Hewlett-Packard was looking at Reno as a location for a new plant. They decided against it because they felt Nevada offered a poor quality of life.

I really believe a strong wilderness bill will do nothing but good for Nevada. To me, these proposed wilderness areas, left as they are now and protected for all time, are worth a million times more than any money they could be worth if they were developed.

Thank you for your time.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF BETTY KERSTEN, RENO, NV

Ms. KERSTEN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Betty Kerstein, 35 year resident of Reno. Thank you for arranging these hearings in Reno.

I feel strongly that for now and for the future we must set aside the Nevada wilderness areas proposed in H.R. 3302 as amended. We also must establish the Great Basin National Park. This is a rare opportunity for us to protect these uniquely beautiful areas of our State. I want our grandchildren and their grandchildren to be able to experience these areas as we and our children have.

If the land is open to commercial and industrial use, the watershed will be in danger and the flora and fauna will be disturbed. The land will never be the same.

I hope you will eventually support H.R. 3302 as amended so that our future Nevadans and others will know them as they are now, and not as sad remnants of lost beauty.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF EARL KERSTEN

Mr. KERSTEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak to you and the members of the committee for this hearing.

My name is Earl Kersten. I am a professor of geography at UNR speaking for myself.

I strongly support H.R. 3302 as introduced by Representative Reid and later amended. Like Miss Swain that spoke a few minutes ago, I was a city person. As a child, I grew up in a large midwestern city next to a large park, part of which was still in a semi-wild forested state. Nearby, was one of the Nation's great zoos. To roam those forests, which I envisioned in those day as the wilderness, and to visit that zoo were the highlights of my boyhood and instilled in me a lifetime of love of nature.

This is one reason why I support the creation of wilderness and a national park. This State, surely most Nevadans realize, is a beautiful and unique part of the Nation and of North America. The des-

ignation of several of our very finest places as wilderness and the creation of a national park will prove to ourselves and to others that we are discriminating enough and farseeing enough to understand what we have and to act to keep it.

Surely, we can save these unique places, 1 percent of Nevada's vast territory, from the inevitable alteration it will undergo if we don't act soon. Removal of the vegetation, digging up of the earth, elimination of many native plants and animals, and the erosion of their soils.

As my studies and those of colleagues also interested in Nevada's lands and resources show, much of our State has already been altered by the hand of man. For example, the perennial grasses on our range were long ago grazed out. In their place has partaken by the non-native annual grass called cheat grass or bronco grass. Of little grazing use and highly inflammatory, one of the main causes of our heavy fires today.

If we don't take a stand to preserve now a little of our wonderful heritage in these mountain vastnesses, no future Nevadans or other people will even believe they existed, let alone have a chance to experience and love them, to be spiritually uplifed by them.

Thank you very much.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, sir.

I wish to thank the panel.

Call Panel 28: Steve Lybarger; Robert Harvey; Steve Hocker; Trevor Thomas; Simon Simonin; William Van Arsdale.

And we'll call Panel 29 up with them: Scott Tyler; John Sargent; R. Edwin Worley; David Worley; Peter Smith; Gayle Robinson.

And we'll call Panel 30 to come on down to the front row: Eddie Mayo; Wayne Capurro; Richard Sheehy; George Campbell; Marty Wilt; and R. Taylor.

First witness, you may go ahead.

STATEMENT OF STEVE HOCKER, RENO, NV

Mr. HOCKER. My name is Steve Hocker. I'm an 8-year Reno, NV resident. I'm here representing myself and my family.

I support the increased wilderness areas of Harry Reid's bill and the amendment. I think the lesser bill introduced by Vucanovich and friends is a very poor effort on their behalf.

This issue has been clouded by accusations on both sides. I have read many of these and I have tried to simplify the results of these accusations in our decisions.

The real issue, I think, is the future of tourism in Nevada. This does not just mean people coming to gamble for the weekend. Tourism is much more. It means long-term growth because when people visit our State, many of them decide to remain here. And most of them that decide to live here find other reasons besides gaming. One of the most important being outdoor recreation.

Look at the brochures and advertising that we send to other areas to bring people to Nevada. Right along with the glitter and sparkle of gaming are pictures of Lake Tahoe, Lake Mead, our ski resorts, and national forests. If we did not have this to offer, surely our economy would not be as stable. We need to continue our efforts to provide as much land as we can for these activities. It has a

positive effect on our State. Gaming may bring people to Nevada, but our attractive environment will keep them here.

I surely hope that we can reach a decision that will benefit all Nevadans for years to come.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF STEVE LYBARGER

Mr. LYBARGER. My name is Steve Lybarger. And, well, I can't add anything to what was said.

Yeah, I got it. This wild area of Nevada that's under discussion means a tremendous amount to me, and hopefuly I'll live long enough to enjoy it for a long time, too.

But I am one of those handicapped people who can't go out into the mountains—couldn't go out into the mountains. I had a choice of either taking medication the rest of my life or exercising very regularly, and to some quite vigorously.

Well, I didn't want to take medications. And after being introduced to the wilderness areas of Nevada, I became very enthused on the exercise part of it. And that's what I have continued to do, winter, summer, day in, day out. And it's been great.

I've had no physical problems since I was able to build up where I could regularly go out and walk through the wilderness, walk around the lakes, climb up to the mountains now. This is something that I could not do. In fact, I could barely walk before. And now, it's just tremendous.

Unless it's happened to you, unless you've gone through it, you don't realize what it takes to get you motivated and to keep you motivated daily and weekly and monthly and from year to year, and that's what the wilderness means to me. And I would like to see it there for someone else who needs that inspiration.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you sir.

Next witness.

STATEMENT OF SIMON SIMONIN

Mr. SIMONIN. My name is Simon Simonin. I am a retired biology teacher and a retired seasonal ranger naturalist with 30 summers living, working, and experiencing national park wilderness.

I have also observed the intense satisfaction of people as they also use these areas. The important message is that the lands are used but not used up.

By setting aside these lands, we will preserve the resources for future generations when this need may be more critical, you should not be greedy and selfish for short-term gains.

Just as those who preceded us have not used up these mineral resources, we should consider those who follow and leave them earthly treasures and protect these wilderness areas. If we open these lands to mining development today, we will not later be able to rerverse our greed. Items of lands sought by man's destruction will give us a quality of life obtainable in no other way. Let us em-

phasize the size of the concern of man for his environment, rather than size of his pocketbook.

As to whether a national park would be economically beneficial should have no bearing determining if a Great Basin National Park should be established. When was the last time they closed a national park because it was economically unprofitable?

The Lehman Cave area and the Wheeler Peak area have spectacular natural assets and these themselves merit a national park status for that area. This area should be protected for us and for future generations. Let us set aside large wilderness areas of Nevada and let us establish a Great Basin National Park and allow the natural processes to continue to be the dominant factor in developing these gems of Nevada.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, sir.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF SCOTT TYLER

Mr. TYLER. My name is Scott Tyler. I'm a professional groundwater hydrologist working on toxic waste disposal problems in the State of Nevada.

I would like to thank Senator Hecht and his committee for this public opportunity to present my views on the present Nevada wilderness today. Although I have many views on this issue, I will constrain my comments to only two which I feel may be of use to the committee.

My first comment concerns the legislation currently before the Congress. I fully support the wilderness legislation proposed by Representative Harry Reid calling for some 900,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land to be given wilderness status. I commend Represenative Reid's efforts at foraging a rational and intelligent solution to the debate.

I find the legislation proposed by Senator Hecht and its sister bill in the House proposed by Representative Vucanovich to be severely lacking in its regards toward the needs of the citizens of Nevada.

Pristine areas are critical habitat refuges for both wildlife and humans. There is room enough in this State for all parties: Developers and hikers, miners and big horn sheep, the handicapped, and those of us who are less handicapped.

My second comment is more technical and addresses an issue that I have heard raised many times by the mining interests of this State. That wilderness legislation will significantly impact their industry. I am not willing to accept this argument. If one looks at a map at the present and past mining districts in the State, you will find that none of these wilderness areas proposed by Representative Reid contain any of these districts.

Mineralization and hence ore deposits are primarily located in the extreme flanks of the mountain ranges of the State, not on the ridge crests proposed for wilderness designation.

Another more enlightening point is the general trend in the mining industry over the last 10 decades. Instead of small lode mining operations, we're seeing the emergence of large-scale open

pit operations, such as in Gabbs and at Round Mountain and other facilities in this State.

Once again, these deposits are not found in the uplifted mountain regions, crests, but primarily at the valley floors or on the flanks. These large-scale operations, while perhaps unsightly, have significant advantages in the future market which I feel will allow them to dominate.

In particular, strict federally mandated environmental controls, such as ground water and surface water protection, are being placed on all phases of the mineral industry.

From my professional background, I have had considerable experience in dealing with industrial pollution control. My experience has shown that only those mining firms with significant financial impeccable backing will be able to effectively meet the challenges of Federal and State environmental legislation.

Those mining interests without this kind of support will be forced into one of two options: Either shut down operation or disregard the laws until the contamination problem is out of control. If the latter is chosen, it is us, the taxpayer, who will assume the massive financial burden of cleanup.

If mining proceeds as I have suggested, the proposed legislation of Representative Reid may even benefit the mining industry. For example, it's been shown conclusively that the forested mountain regions of this State are highly efficient water harvesting areas, through storage and ground water recharge and winter snows.

By maintaining these upland areas in a pristine and efficient state, the mining industry will be ensured of the most precious of all natural resources. Water.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Scott, summarize, would you please?

Mr. TYLER. In closing, wilderness areas, while seen by some as a short-term threat, are, in the long-term, of beneficial use of but a very minute proportion of the State of Nevada.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF R. EDWIN WORLEY

Mr. WORLEY. I'm Edwin Worley. I retired from the University of Nevada staff faculty. Senior, age 77.

Our family moved from Southern California to Nevada 38 years ago and we have not regretted the move. We have hiked and camped in the Toiyabes and the Rubies and other areas. We have enjoyed the wilderness opportunities.

On one occasion, I had the pleasure of camping in the upper campground of Wheeler Peak and visited the bristlecone pines and actually climbed to the summit with a stiff wind blowing across the access ridge. This was about 5 years ago. And I can assure you that it is really quite a thrill to a person who loves wilderness to achieve a certain degree of success, to climb inside the cylindrical rock shelters at the top and sign the register. It may be that people who don't do these things much are not quite able to appreciate it, but it means a great deal to the human spirit.

I would like to say that I also feel quite strongly about a national park proposal. We had the opportunity several years ago and missed it. And this time I hope we do not fail to include the Lehman Caves, Wheeler Peak area in a national park.

I'd like us to remember our children and our children's children in order that they can enjoy wilderness as some of us have.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, sir.

Next witness.

STATEMENT OF GAYLE ROBINSON

Ms. ROBINSON. My name is Gayle Robinson. I live in Washoe Valley.

First, I want to admit that I have never backpacked and also I don't have any interest in attempting to do so. But I do want to express my support for wilderness in Nevada and for the areas protected in H.R. 3302.

Nevada has some of the most beautiful areas of the world. I've studied in Peru in the shadow of the Andes; I've traveled in Nepal; I've seen the fjords of Norway; the glaciers of Alaska; Japan's Mount Fuji. These are magnificent places.

Yet, I find myself telling my companions from Chicago or New York, "But Nevada's just like that, also." Naturally, they look at me incredulously.

I feel that the mountain ranges that we have here in Nevada are a great scenic resource. It would please me very much if Nevada were known nationally as well as internationally for its spectacular and dramatic wilderness areas, as much as for its gaming, prostitution, and military testing.

I'm particularly fond of the Mount Wheeler area and the Great Basin National Park, since I lived in Baker, NV. Seeing the bristlecone pine trees and the glacier, remnants of thousands of years ago, gives me a feeling of awe at the wondrous continuity of existence.

As a waitress in a truck stop in Nevada in Baker, I had many a talk with residents and passersby. What impressed me was how people from totally different backgrounds could unite in our appreciation of the natural beauty of the area. These people may be college educated or high school dropouts, professionals or manual workers, from teacher to truckdriver.

And so I think that designating the wilderness areas as specified in H.R. 3302 is a very American and democratic thing to do.

The miners may be concerned about missing potential profits, but I say, we all profit.

I recently read that in 1858 the Army surveyor who mapped the Grand Canyon area wrote, "The region is altogether valueless." The Grand Canyon is now a well-known treasure. Let's not be so shortsighted. Nevada scenery is a treasure. Let's protect it.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you. I wish to thank the panel.

Next panel, panel 30: Eddie Mayo; Wayne Capurro; Richard Sheehy; George Campbell; Marty Wilt; R. Taylor.

And we'll go on to panel 31: Pete Rissler; Dana Winkelman; Ken Helms; Linda Kerley; Mary Peacock.

Well, we'll go for it all. Number 32: Connie Quinn; Amy Mazza; Steve Danberg; James Hulse; Marjorie Sill; Michael Walker.

Mr. SARGENT. John Sargent, panel 29.

Mr. BEVINETTO. And you're on panel 29. Yes, go right on up, John.

Is there anyone else in the room that was on the witness list who has not testified and wishes to do so? Come forward and join the witnesses at the table.

Thank you.

First witness.

STATEMENT OF JOHN SARGENT

Mr. SARGENT. My name's John Sargent. I was born in Reno over a quarter of a century ago. In that period of time, I have witessed an astonishing change in our environment. Most recently and radically is the frantic ruination of my hometown, Reno. A ruination by erratic, unchecked growth where greed and economic fears have brought ruination to our once plentiful pasture lands now a place only for low cost barracks lined with brick walls, boulevards, and fast food. Our once prized pristine and delicate watershed is now only for casinos, algae, city sewage, and reclamation. The air in the Truckee Meadows becomes hazardous with only one windless day.

All the cornerstones for man's survival here are at the brink of depletion, and yet we ravage farther and deeper into our remaining environment at our most furious pace ever.

Why? So we can live a life of lavish luxury.

I do not condemn all the technology. The evolution of the human mind is one of the most astounding developments in the history of our Earth. Yet, at the same time, I was so foolish to believe that we can utilize and trample in 130 years every design and ecosystem nature has created over billions of years and survive by our own creations.

If wildlands of Nevada are to become only a small highly trampled amusement park, true wildlands will be lost. I wonder what motivates our public servants to be so eager to sell off the remaining pristine 2 percent of our lands to uncaring out-of-State mining monsters or to be used as vast military playgrounds under the relentless rath of our most destructive weapons.

If these must go on for the sake of the ruination of places like Reno to carry on, I will be glad to put on a loin cloth and go back to that way of life to save our lands. It's time for human beings to step back and look at the machine we are becoming ever more dependent on, address our mistakes, analyze and correct them before we ruin everything essential to our survival. Because modern man still refuses to use foresight, the conscious people of our State must unite and preserve what remains of our pure and natural wildlands.

A few other comments that I have noticed from people that have spoken today is, they say if we leave these lands to wilderness we'll lose our watersheds, what will control them. I wonder why they need control if they've gone on for billions of years uncontrolled to

this day, and they're still better off if we never ever tried to control them.

I had a tough time with this speech because Mike and the other young lady from the Carson High pretty much said everything I had to say, and I want to commend them for their insight.

I'd like to commend Harry Reid for his insight into the actual concerns of the public.

I want to commend Governor Bryan for his good thought and his straightforward approach to the people, to the panel that he dealth with.

I'd like to also commend, who I haven't heard any congratulations for is, John Seiberling. For someone who has had his State ruined, to come out and say to us that we should propose—that he proposes the most amounts of anybody, any of the Nevada people, I think we should use his hindsight and share in his foresight, and help to try to save what is left of Nevada.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF JIM HULSE

Mr. HULSE. My name is Jim Hulse. I am a historian.

Please allow me to speak to you as a native Nevadan who grew up in eastern Nevada in Lincoln County, who comes from a mining family, who worked in the mines for a while as a young man, and who has an equal interest in the industry, the heritage, and the hopes of this State.

We have a difficult decision to make about the extent of the wilderness area that should be set aside in Nevada by the Congress, but we should be set aside in Nevada by the Congress, but we should not be hypnotized by the numbers. As we make this decision, we should give some consideration to God's creation as we know it and to what this region has been. As one who has walked in many mining regions and also on several of the prospective wilderness areas unconscious of the wonders that remain in our remote mountains and of the ravages that irresponsible miners, campers, ski resort developers, and grazers can inflict upon them.

I have seen too many instances when those who wanted the quick money have torn or denuded the landscape and have drprived us of our natural surroundings to produce nothing, to take the money and run. There are no limits to the greed of some promoters, and I would represent to you that some of the people you heard earlier this morning may fit into that category.

Advance technology and hunger for quick profits are the most immediate enemies of the wilderness that we have known and loved. The quest for the quick profit has devestated some magnificent scenery in this State in my lifetime, and surely in the lifetime of people much younger. The needs of the industry and of miners are legitimate, but the needs of those who would rape our most spendid lands for quick profit are not.

Senate bill 722, with its pitifully small designation of wilderness area, is an invitation to rape more of that splendid land. House Resolution 3302 is much fairer and a more equitable measure if one is thinking of the interests of our children and grandchildren,

rather than the fast buck artists, but I would also say the Seiberling bill is fairer still if we are thinking of our children, of the young people who spoke this morning. That leaves millions for development, it designates a reasonable amount of the wilderness heritage that our children need and deserve.

I hope our Senator and Congressman not only heard but heeded the young people who spoke this morning.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, sir.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF DORIS GLOVER

Mrs. GLOVER. My name is Doris Glover, and I have lived in Nevada since the late 1930's. My father was a miner. I grew up in a mining camp near Olceo, NV.

I can't say anything that hasn't already been said, but I want to go on record as being totally opposed to any land set aside for mining at this time. To me, we'd create a monster that our future generations, our children, our grandchildren, would be continually battling.

I believe that the Sierra Club believes, we all believe Nevada has beautiful scenery, wonderful areas to enjoy. Why is it we have it? Has there been so much damage over the last 100 years through the Government agencies that has practiced multiple use? Is that why we have beautiful areas because of this good management? If the management has been so bad, why do they want these beautiful areas?

That is about all I have to say, but I would hope to see that all Nevadans have a right to vote on this in a State election on the next State election ballot.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness, please.

STATEMENT OF CONNIE QUINN

Ms. QUINN. My name is Connie Quinn, and I've been here almost all day, since 9 o'clock this morning, getting more and more petrified by the minute. This is the first time I've ever spoken at any public meeting, and I am glad I'm one of the last. I am glad most of the people have gone.

Mr. BEVINETTO. You'll do just fine.

Ms. QUINN. Well, I'm almost done.

I only want to add—I heard some really great things said prowilderness today and that's my position, too. And I support Harry Reid's bill, although I would like to see more areas than that as designated wilderness.

And I am speaking on behalf of my two sons who are 3 and 6 years old. And the older one it's his favorite thing to do is to go hiking in the wilderness and we've been doing that since before he was born.

One other thing, I am one of the these people that moved here from California 2 years ago, and I thought Nevada was just a big desert, too, until I saw the slide show on all the proposed wilder-

ness areas. So, I've just been amazed. I thought that they stole some of the photography from some of the California wilderness areas that I have been in. I'm real impressed and I hope that we have as much wilderness as you'll allow us.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, Connie. You did just fine.

Next witness.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL WALKER

Mr. WALKER. My name's Michael Walker, I live in Lemmon Valley. I have also been here all day, since 9, definitely a long day.

I think everyone has covered most of my points. I think we all agree that we have to save some acreage.

Looking at the S. 722 proposed bill, I'm not so sure when I see all these zeroes. I grew up in Kansas. Maybe we should walk ahead back there back there or something. But anyway, one point that hasn't come up enough is the realization to say that wilderness is synomymous with save wildlife.

First, there is no wilderness without wildlife. As a biologist, I know this often requires much acreage to cover the ecosystems to sustain the species here in Nevada. These natural boundaries best be considered when cutting in the Nevada wilderness acreage. The unspoiled land we choose to save best do the job of preserving wilderness by also preserving wildlife, or there won't be any true wilderness. Respect the rights of our native wildlife and just don't think of ourselves and our pocketbooks and all this politics.

Concerning the mining industry, I'm also a geologist, lived in Reno 5 years—well, 3 years. I've lived in Elko. I've worked for Newmont, the railroads in economic mining. I've staked claims, et cetera. This thing about strategic minerals that we heard earlier this morning, what strategic minerals? What is this cry for strategic minerals? I've worked for companies—we are not in a war. If there's not gold connected with it, these companies aren't looking for it.

I would hate to think that I gave up seeing wildlife and conserved lakes as Nevadans have here, to give all this up just for disseminated micron gold, which I will never see. I'm definitely promining, I want to go on record as that. But we've got to save something.

And this is a beautiful State and these ranges out there, 10 days on, 4 off, 12, 14 hours. I've worked them and seen them. Even though I've been here a short time, I feel like I've seen a lot of Nevada. Thus, I think we need more research concerning wildlife impact and specific economic mineral potential. I don't think it's in there.

And to pass a bill now less than the H.R. 3392 would be no wilderness at all to go from there. I support saving it for sure, favoring H.R. 3302 as a minimum acreage.

Thank you.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Next witness.

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL, ON BEHALF OF THE TOIYABE CHAPTER, THE SIERRA CLUB

Ms. SILL. And the last witness.

My name is Marjorie Sill. I live in Reno, NV. I am here today representing the Toiyabe chapter of the Sierra Club. Our spokesman who was designated was unable to attend because of illness, and I have here a 4-page statement which I wish to introduce into the record.

Mr. BEVINETTO. It will be included in the record.

Ms. SILL. Thank you.

However, as the last witness, I certainly am not going to read at a rapid rate the four pages which have been written.

I want to address three points. First of all, the Toiyabe chapter consists of over 2,000 members, mostly in Nevada, some in California east of the Sierra Crest, and the overwhelming concern of the members is national forest wilderness. And I would like to say then that I feel that I am representing this group.

Second, H.R. 3302 is actually a compromise wilderness bill. We do support it, we have felt that we have made some compromises in supporting this bill because originally we were in favor of a 21-area bill, went with the Seiberling bill of 19 areas, and are willing to support as a compromise the 14-area wilderness with the addition of the Great Basin National Park.

We have worked for wilderness for a long time in this State; we have worked for a national park for a long time. A national park would encompass some of the values that right now are not found in our National Park System, the values of the basin and range country.

This is also true for the national wilderness system. We do not have basin and range wilderness at the present time, so this is a national resource that should be added to both of these systems.

Last, I would like to address the image of Nevada. I have in front of me a copy of the April 1986 Nevada magazine, and the lead article is "Nevada's Untouched Wilderness. Here in the Nation's most mountainous State nature reveals new life and wonders." This is the image we want to have of Nevada. We don't want to think of Nevada as a nuclear waste dump, we don't want to think of it as a place where refuse from acid rain flows through a tunnel on the mountains from California, we don't want to think of it as something that the military feels free to bomb at its own pleasure, contrary to the rules of Congress. We want to think of it as a place that is glorious, beautiful, and that is here for all Nevadans and for all generations to come.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sill follows:]

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL
CONSERVATION CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB
BEFORE SENATE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING
NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
RENO, NEVADA
FEBRUARY 13, 1986.

My name is Marjorie Sill. I reside in Reno, Nevada, and am representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club which has over 2000 members in Nevada and Eastern California.

When we have polled our members on their conservation concerns, we have found that wilderness, and particularly National Forest Wilderness, is their overwhelming priority. The members who do not or cannot use the wilderness themselves want the wild areas preserved for their children, grandchildren, or for generations to come. Preservation of lands in the National Wilderness System is really a form of insurance for the future.

However, Nevada is, at the present time, grossly underinsured, and the nation is also underinsured in the kind of wilderness which Nevada contains. Great Basin country is geologically and ecologically different. It is characterized by long valleys cut by enormous north-south mountain ranges which are indeed "Islands in the Sky." These islands are unique because they catch the moisture that blows across arid Nevada and because they offer a rich variety of wildlife, plant-life, rock forms, and riparian areas, all of which enhance their value to those seeking solitude, beauty, and the thrill of a primitive recreational experience.

My own experience with Nevada wilderness has been an important facet in my life. I first came to the state as a small child. At that time much of the country east of Lake Tahoe was in wilderness

condition, and I remember my pleasure in walking in the area now included in the Mount Rose wilderness proposal. This area is now used extensively by the residents of Northern California and Northern Nevada for recreation. Since I moved to Reno in the fall of 1959, I have climbed Mount Rose at least thirty times, have participated in trail building and restoration, and have explored the creeks, ridges, and meadows in all seasons. This is an extremely important watershed and wildlife area and needs protection from unrestrained ORV use, particularly in wet meadows in early summer.

In 1953, on our way to California, my husand and I accidentally stumbled onto the spectacular regions of the South Snake Range and spent a week exploring such beautiful areas as the upper reaches of Lehman Creek, Snake Creek, and Theresa and Stella Lakes. Later we returned to discover the ancient grove of bristlecone pines and the only active glacier between the Sierra and the Rockies. I have come back to Wheeler Peak year after year to renew my acquaintance with its wild values or to show others this area I love so much. This region is of such high scenic quality that it has been proposed for a Great Basin National Park in H. R. 3302. Thirty years of acquaintance with the South Snake have convinced me that it must have park protection to keep its superb wilderness and scenic values.

I and many of my friends have spent much time in the Ruby Mountains complex, including the East Humboldt. This is a large wilderness area with lakes, streams, a profusion of wildlife and plants, and an alpine atmosphere. The Ruby Mountains are indeed a backpacker's paradise because of the hunting, fishing, photographic, and wildlife viewing opportunities and the excellent trails. I have seen a variety of people hiking in these mountains, ranging from small children being carried by mother or father, boy scouts,

young adults, middle-aged fishermen, and hikers who were at least 70. If you polled the citizens of Nevada, you would undoubtedly find that the Ruby Mountains are the best-known and the most beloved of the wild areas. While the East Humboldts do not receive the same level of use, they also offer spectacular attractions--lakes, peaks, wildlife, and a myriad of flowers. This is, indeed, magnificent wilderness.

Nevada's only designated wilderness at present--the 64,000 acre Jarbidge--is representative of a different kind of country. Its stark peaks stand against the sky. But the country surrounding these peaks is unprotected by formal status. The name "Jarbidge" means "monster that lurks in the canyon" in Shoshone, and it is these canyons and their overgrown creeks that must be included in the wilderness system along with the "country of the pointed firs"--the slopes leading up to the peaks.

In Northwest Nevada, far removed from most of the big mountain ranges, lie the Santa Rosa Mountains, headwaters of the Little Humboldt and Quinn Rivers. This important watershed area is a favorite with trout fishermen and the few recreationists who know the area. This is a subtle country of rock outcroppings, lush meadows, lingering snowbanks, ephemeral lakes, and vivid patches of bright green or gold aspen, depending on the season. Wilderness status will ensure its survival from ORV damage, particularly in the meadows.

The three ranges of Central Nevada are each enormous and contain spectacular wild country. Last fall I led a group of women on a climb of Arc Dome from Columbine Camp in the Toiyabes. The youngest member of the group was 30 and the oldest--a retired worker from

Hawthorne--was 68. All but one made it to the top, in spite of a cold front that blew up without warning. That night around the campfire we talked about the glories of the area.

Mount Jefferson in the Toiquima Range is equally as impressive, particularly because of its archeological and historical values. To climb to Alta Toquima, the highest Shoshone encampment at 11,800 feet, is a thrill to those who visit the area centuries later.

The third range to the east is the Monitor Range with its enormous wild area of Table Mountain. The Table itself is vast and spectacular with its giant groves of aspen, its streams which descend slowly to the west and plunge across cliffs to the east, and its abundant wildlife. Tracking the elusive elk is the epitome of a wilderness experience. All of these areas must be protected under the wilderness system if they are not to be scarred with roads and other developments.

We endorse whole-heartedly the Reid Bill, H.R. 3302, as passed by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, to establish the Great Basin National Park and to designate fourteen areas as wilderness. This bill will do much towards preserving some of the real values in Nevada and to dispelling the myth that Nevada is a wasteland.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you.

Mr. SHYDE. Senator Hecht and you have conducted a very fine meeting. Senator Hecht's initial rules that if you were not on the panel, you could not speak. He waived that in one or two cases and we have heard several people speak who were not on the panel, although they were representing people who could not come, so they say.

Are you in a position or are you inclined to let a person speak who didn't know that he was to sign up? It was my fault.

I have some ideas, I have heard repetitions of the same ideas, minute in and hour today. I have some thoughts that the Senator should know have not been expressed today that are of great concern to this country.

Mr. BEVINETTO. OK. Sir, if you would just hold on for a moment.

Are there any people in the audience who did not sign up who wish to testify? Would you raise your hands, please?

OK. Sir, you can come up to the table.

Sir, have a seat and state your name and city and proceed with your 3-minute testimony.

STATEMENT OF VERNON SHYDE

Mr. SHYDE. I am Vernon Shyde, former dean of the Mackey School of Mining, former director of the Nevada Bureau of Mines in Geology. I am a geologist, I have worked in 8 of the 11 Western States. I have visited ore deposits and the countrylands, the back countries in six continents. I have represented the United Nations working overseas. I feel that I have some idea of what nature is.

I have heard many misconceptions of environment and things of that today. I would like to point out that I am also a conservationist, the geologists were the first conservations of this country. We proposed—or one of my predecessors proposed to Theodore Roosevelt that he should hold the first conference on conservation so we are aware of the problems that we now face.

The United States. Do you wish your country to live for the next 100 years? You should change some thinking. We are being shut out by our restrictive laws guiding our own companies in this country of the world's natural resources. We may have to depend upon our own.

Wilderness. Yes, I am in favor of wilderness without a capital W. We have had it, we have heard testimony today of the glories of the wilderness. Were they taking place in wilderness with a captital W? They took place in our present forest lands. Let's continue to have our forest lands. Why must we restrict them again? I want to do the same things you want to do.

Mining is excluded. Our good representative from Las Vegas says that you will be able to mine if you have a claim in the future wilderness. That is not so. He is either woefully uninformed or deliberately falsifying the facts. You cannot mine in these wildernesses. This is a fact.

What is the future? Let me give you a good example. World War I took place, we needed tungsten desperately to win and save our country. We have very little. Ships were lost, men and human beings were lost. Science came along between World War I and

World War II and invented the black light. I won't tell you all about it.

When World War II took place the prospectors went over the hills and examined the lands where they said we had no tungsten and no mineral shilite calcium—receives this radiation and sends it back to—as a flourescence. We were able to supply tungsten for our battleships and our guns to win World War II. Are we going to throw that away?

You supply milk to your children, but for every glass of milk you drink you drink a half a glass of petroleum. And yet we say we don't want the foreign people to mine in our country. Are you going to do away with the petroleum that comes from another State?

Mr. BEVINETTO. Sir, can you summarize?

Mr. SHYDE. My summary is that we are kidding ourselves. There are two basic industries in the world: agricultural industry and the metal industry, and everything that man does is based on those two, living resources and the resources that come out of the earth.

And if we do not protect those two basic industries, it may be that that country will soon lose its right to control its own future and you will have fallen under the control of a foreign power.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Thank you, sir.

The subcommittee today has heard 125 witnesses.

I'd like to emphasize that the testimony given after Senator Hecht's departure will have the same consideration with the testimony given earlier.

If you have friends or associates who wish to testify and were unable to do so, then advise them that the hearing record will remain open until February 28, and that testimony will have the same weight as the testimony given today orally.

If you have signed up out in the lobby for a copy of the hearing record, it will take a few months and all of the testimony received today and subsequent testimony will be printed in that hearing record along with the testimony from the other four hearings around the State.

I'd like to give special thanks to Caroline Yamaoka, the court reporter, who did such a great job today.

And with that, the hearing stands in recess.

[Whereupon, the hearing recessed, to reconvene Friday, February 14, 1986, in Las Vegas, NV.]

NEVADA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1985

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

Las Vegas, NV.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m. in the city council chambers, city hall, Las Vegas, NV, Hon. Chic Hecht presiding.

Present: Senator Hecht.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. Good morning, everyone. Would you please take your seats? We are going to begin.

We will begin our fifth day of hearings on the matter of the wilderness bill. Before I begin my formal statement, let me just say to all of you thank you for coming. We started in Ely. We went to Elko. We went to Winnemucca. We went to Reno. And this is the fifth day of hearings. I can tell you we have had turnouts that you cannot believe—upward of thousands, well over a thousand. In small rural areas 300 or 400 people were turning out. In Reno yesterday the entire room was packed. You just could not even get a standing spot.

So we have hit on an issue that is very, very important to all the people in Nevada. In this day and age in which we live, the newspaper always has an account of what people are saying. We have not had a chance to analyze all of the statements that have been prepared and have been put into the record, but for the several hundred people who have testified let me give you a box score on where we are as of last night.

Thirteen percent of the people who testified want no wilderness at all. Forty-eight percent favor the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill. Thirty-eight percent favor the House Reid bill, and 6 percent want more wilderness than in the House bill. So that gives you just a summary of where we are this morning.

I want to make a few introductions, too. We are very privileged that Senator McClure, the chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, which has jurisdiction over all interior matters, has allowed us to have these five hearings in the State of Nevada. Tony Bevinetto, Ann Femia, and Tom Williams are here from the Senate staff, out from Washington. Just raise your hands, if you would.

Scott Cameron, to my right, represents me in Washington on my Senate staff. Kelton Abbott, representing Senator Laxalt; Allan Hanssen with Congresswoman Vucanovich.

And then my staff here in Las Vegas. Our loveable Mayor Orrin Grayson. Where are you, Mayor? You know, he is the greatest guy in the world, and today he is coming to this hearing even though he and Bonnie should be celebrating his 75th birthday. Let's give Orrin a big hand.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Mike Miller, Mark Brown. Those are the introductions which we have.

I want to thank all of you who are here this morning, those of you who will soon be presenting testimony as well as those who will not be testifying but who by your presence here are showing us how important the wilderness and national park issues are to you.

I am very pleased to be holding this hearing in Las Vegas today. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has a limited budget for hearings such as this, but I decided many months ago that the financial and time constraints are clearly outweighed by the importance of giving the people of Nevada the fullest opportunity to express their views on the wilderness and the national park.

I have heard quite often from organizations such as the Nevada Department of Minerals and the Sierra Club and this is my chance to hear from the people in Nevada. This is the last of five hearings I have held each day this week across the State. Since each hearing location is several hundred miles from the next and many people wished to testify, it was necessary to limit each person's oral testimony to 3 minutes. Written statements will be included in the official hearings record in their entirety and will be given equal weight with oral testimony.

In order to make sure we have a full 3 minutes for each witness, I will generally try to limit my questions here and now and instead will contact you later with any questions I might have after having had an opportunity to reflect on the testimony.

We are here in this State to begin the legislative process of the Senate Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Subcommittee that will decide the general uses of the national forest in Nevada. The purpose is to gather the specific data necessary to make boundary, resource, area and use decisions.

As you can see, we have a very long witness list. While we are obviously pleased to see such a large turnout, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit the oral testimony to 3 minutes. I ask that you withhold applause and comments, as it will cut into the witnesses' time.

Your complete written statement will be included in the hearing record. Any additional materials, maps, et cetera, you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and the staff when we get back to Washington. The hearing record will remain open until February 28. You can submit a copy to my offices in Las Vegas or Reno or the subcommittee office in Washington.

It is very important that we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by several earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them. It will be a much more constructive session if we can avoid repetition. Please summarize your statements.

There will be a printed hearing record of all five hearings which you can obtain by filling out the self-addressed sticker at the table. Where is that, Tony?

Mr. BEVINETTO. It's in the back of the room, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Right back there. A copy will be sent to you in a few months.

Witnesses are asked to please hold on to your written testimony until your panel is called to the witness table. We ask all witnesses to look at the order in which they are scheduled to testify and if you are on the next panel, as the panels are called up come to the front row seats. It is just like a baseball game—a panel testifying, one on deck, the rest in the audience.

The lights are used to time the witnesses. Green means go, yellow means 1 minute remaining, red means complete your sentence or thought and please stop.

Before we get started, I want to set the record straight on three points. First, there has been a lot of confusion about the national park proposal. I will not be taking a firm position on this issue until I have reviewed the testimony of the Nevadans who have testified this week. You should know that you are not going to be forced to choose between either a national park or wilderness. You do have a third choice—keeping things as they are now. If the people of Nevada want to keep the land just as it is now, I will work to make that happen.

Second, the national forest-wilderness controversy will not be the last time Nevadans will deal with the wilderness issue. This is not the last chance we will have to create wilderness in our State, and it is not the last time we will have to examine the appropriateness of wilderness designations of our land.

Even as we speak, the Bureau of Land Management is busy developing its own wilderness proposals reviewing millions of acres of public land for possible wilderness status. The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering another million acres or so for wilderness status. Even the National Park Service may have a modest proposal of its own.

Third, as you probably know, I cosponsored one of the wilderness bills before the Congress. This bill took a deliberately conservative approach to wilderness designation in our State. It has been endorsed by most of the State's county commissions and by the State legislature. I think this indicates that the bill has some public support in Nevada, but I am not locked in concrete about making some adjustments either way, if that is the will of the people.

While I am speaking I see different members of Congressman Reid's staff, so would you just please stand up so people will know who you are, everyone from Congressman Reid's staff?

Mr. BEVINETTO. Senator, let me advise the witnesses that when they come up to the witness table, these are static tables that can't be moved, five witnesses should sit over here, and five over there.

It will be split. Those mikes are all live and Miss Femia will gather your testimony and bring it up to the table.

The first panel is Speaker Bill Bilyeu, Senator James Bilbray, Senator John Vergiels, Assemblyman Charles Horn, Assemblywoman Jane Ham, Assemblyman Jerry Fairchild, Keith Whipple, county commissioner Karen Hayes, Assemblywoman Pat Little, and School Board Chairman Lucille Lusk.

The second panel is Thomas Roederer, Deputy Regional Forester with the U.S. Forest Service; Richard Reyburn, and Tom Ballow. You can come down to the front row and be waiting.

Senator HECHT. We will start with the speaker of the house. Bill.

STATEMENT OF BYRON BILYEU, NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN, ELKO, NV

Mr. BILYEU. Good morning. I am Assemblyman Bill Bilyeu from Elko, NV. I have been elected to represent all of Elko County and most of Eureka County, and it's also been my great pleasure to serve as speaker of the Nevada Assembly.

I am here to testify in support of S. 722 as well as H.R. 1686, which creates wilderness area in Nevada, and to tell you a bit about A.J.R. 1, which was passed by the 1985 legislature, which deals with wilderness area.

The 1985 Nevada Legislature passed assembly resolution 1, which endorsed lands in Nevada for wilderness area. I might point out that 59 of the 63 members of the Nevada State Legislature voted in support of A.J.R. 1. It also should be noted that this measure had bipartisan support. The Nevada Assembly is controlled by Republicans and the Nevada Senate is controlled by Democrats. Joint resolution No. 1 was approved on May 25, 1985, by Gov. Richard H. Bryan. A copy of the resolution as approved and signed is attached to my remarks.

Some 87 percent of the land area of the State of Nevada is controlled by agencies of the Federal Government. This is the highest percentage of Federal control of any State in the continental United States. Additionally, over 4 million acres of Federal land, nearly 6 percent of Nevada's land area, has been withdrawn by the Federal Government from use by the general public. This represents some of the greatest land withdrawals of any type in the Nation.

Because of these situations, I believe it in the best interests of the State of Nevada that only moderate wilderness designations, as proposed in S. 722 and H.R. 1686, be made at this time, and that is the intent and the purpose of A.J.R. 1 as passed by the legislature.

We have considered in the legislature the effects of wilderness designation as early as 1981, and I will be pleased to supplement the record by status papers and reports that I brought with me, as well as a copy of the legislative history of A.J.R. 1 in the Nevada Legislature. And with your permission I will provide that to you.

Many people in Nevada and outside the State of Nevada, don't understand the importance of mining and ranching to rural Nevada. We have an abundance of mineral resources in Nevada, and when I hear comments to the effect that somehow or other the development of mining involves big out-of-State companies who are

greedy, I think it is detrimental not only to the economy of the State of Nevada but to the attempts that we are making and the Governor is making in terms of economic diversification.

Senator HECHT. I am sorry, Bill. Your time is up. You know, as we travel around the State all elected officials have a chance to speak, and there have been a lot of heart attacks because when you cut off a politician, it is tough. [Laughter.]

Mr. BILYEU. It's hard to see your light, too.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bilyeu follows:]

STATEMENT BY NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON BILYEU
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE'S
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Reference S.B. 722--The Hecht-Laxalt Wilderness Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

I AM ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON BILYEU FROM ELKO, NEVADA. I HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO REPRESENT ALL OF ELKO COUNTY, AND MOST OF EUREKA COUNTY, IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE. SINCE JANUARY 1985, IT ALSO HAS BEEN MY GREAT PLEASURE TO SERVE AS SPEAKER OF THE NEVADA ASSEMBLY.

I AM HERE TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 722 AS INTRODUCED BY NEVADA'S TWO DISTINGUISHED UNITED STATES SENATORS, CHIC HECHT AND PAUL LAXALT. THIS BILL, AS WELL AS H.R. 1686 WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA VUCANOVICH, ALSO OF NEVADA, WOULD DESIGNATE AN ADDITIONAL 136,900 ACRES OF UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LAND IN NEVADA AS WILDERNESS. THESE LANDS ARE REPORTED TO POSSESS TRUE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS, ARE LOCATED IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE, AND HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION BY MANY USERS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

THE 1985 NEVADA LEGISLATURE PASSED ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 WHICH ENDORSED THESE AREAS FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. IN PART, A.J.R. 1 STATES THAT "THE LEGISLATURE URGES THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DESIGNATE AS WILDERNESS PORTIONS OF MOUNT CHARLESTON, MOUNT MORIAH, BOUNDARY PEAK

AND THE JARBIDGE AREA, AS IDENTIFIED IN FEDERAL LEGISLATION NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS." I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT 59 OF THE 63 MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE VOTED IN SUPPORT OF A.J.R. 1. IT ALSO SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS MEASURE HAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. THE NEVADA ASSEMBLY IS CONTROLLED BY REPUBLICANS AND THE NEVADA SENATE IS CONTROLLED BY DEMOCRATS. DURING THE 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN NEVADA THERE WERE 33 REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS AND 30 DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS. ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 WAS APPROVED ON MAY 25, 1985, BY GOVERNOR RICHARD H. BRYAN, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A DEMOCRAT. A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION AS APPROVED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR BRYAN IS ATTACHED.

LAND STATUS IN NEVADA

SOME 87 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IS CONTROLLED BY AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL CONTROL OF ANY STATE IN THE NATION. ADDITIONALLY, OVER 4 MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL LAND, NEARLY 6 PERCENT OF NEVADA'S LAND AREA, HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM USE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. MOST OF THIS LAND IS USED FOR DEFENSE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS, AND REPRESENTS THE GREATEST LAND WITHDRAWALS OF THIS TYPE IN ANY STATE IN THE NATION. BECAUSE OF THESE SITUATIONS, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE OF NEVADA THAT ONLY THE MODERATE WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS, AS PROPOSED IN S.B. 722 AND H.R. 1686, BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

EFFECT ON MINING

MANY PEOPLE IN NEVADA, AND MOST PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE STATE, DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING TO NEVADA AND TO THE NATION.

NEVADA CURRENTLY IS THE LEADING STATE IN THE NATION FOR MINERALS EXPLORATION OF ALL KINDS--HARD ROCK, PETROLEUM AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES. THIS STATE CONTAINS NUMEROUS STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL

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MINERAL COMMODITIES. NEVADA RANKS NUMBER ONE IN THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF GOLD, MAGNESITE, MERCURY AND BARIUM. IT IS THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER OF LITHIUM, DIATOMITE AND GEMSTONES, AND THE THIRD LARGEST PRODUCER OF SILVER.

NEVADA HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THE STATE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION. ABOUT 40 MILLION OF THE 70 MILLION ACRES OF LAND IN NEVADA ARE COVERED BY SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET OF ALLUVIUM AND VOLCANIC RUBBLE THAT PRECLUDES BENEFICIAL MINERAL EXPLORATION. SINCE THE NATIONAL FOREST LANDS ARE LOCATED IN THE HIGHER MOUNTAIN AREAS OF NEVADA, THESE LANDS INCLUDE THE LOCATIONS WHERE EXPOSED MINERALS GENERALLY CAN BE FOUND.

MINING ITSELF DISTURBS VERY LITTLE LAND--LESS THAN 40,000 ACRES IN NEVADA AND LESS THAN 3 MILLION ACRES NATIONWIDE IN THE LAST 50 YEARS. HOWEVER, LARGE AREAS OF LAND ARE REQUIRED FOR EXPLORATION TO FIND SUITABLE TARGETS FOR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. EXPLORATION REQUIRES OPEN ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC LANDS.

ACCORDING TO THE MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION BASED ON DATA FROM GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY SOURCES, 11 OF THE 19 AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY CONGRESSMEN SEIBERLING AND OTHERS AS WILDERNESS ARE RATED AS HAVING HIGH MINERAL POTENTIAL. ANOTHER THREE AREAS HAVE MODERATE MINERAL POTENTIAL. NEVADA AND OUR NATION CAN ILL AFFORD TO LOSE ACCESS TO THAT MANY AREAS WITH HIGHLY RATED MINERAL POTENTIAL.

SOME PROPONENTS OF WILDERNESS CONTEND THAT IF MINERAL POTENTIAL ACTUALLY EXISTS, THOSE AREAS ALREADY WOULD HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED. THIS IS A NAIVE VIEW WHICH DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY AND THE EFFECT OF WORLD ECONOMIC FORCES ON EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITHIN THE MINING INDUSTRY. DESPITE OVER 120 YEARS OF MINING ACTIVITY IN NEVADA, NEW DISCOVERIES OF

MINERALIZED AREAS CONTINUE TO BE MADE ON A REGULAR BASIS. IN 1984, EXPLORATION EFFORTS DISCOVERED OVER $2 BILLION WORTH OF NEW MINERAL RESERVES IN OUR STATE.

THE ACTUAL EXTENT OF THE MINERAL POTENTIAL IN MOST OF THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS IS UNKNOWN AND MANY PARTS OF THESE AREAS ARE UNEXPLORED. DESPITE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964, MINERAL ASSESSMENT SURVEYS BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF MINES HAVE NOT BEEN CONDUCTED IN 15 OF THE 19 WILDERNESS AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY SOME GROUPS FOR NEVADA.

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT VALID EXISTING MINERAL RIGHTS MAY BE DEVELOPED IN WILDERNESS AREAS. HOWEVER, IN REALITY, FEDERAL REGULATIONS IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS THAT MAKE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES UNECONOMICAL.

COMPARISON WITH HOUSE BILL

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS PASSED H.R. 3302, AS AMENDED, TO DESIGNATE 14 WILDERNESS AREAS AND TO CREATE THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. HOUSE REPORT NUMBER 99-427 ON THIS BILL DISCUSSES MINERAL POTENTIAL IN THESE AREAS AND STATES THAT THEY "INCLUDE ONLY 438 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 340,000 MINING CLAIMS ON FEDERAL LANDS IN NEVADA." HOWEVER, INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS INDICATES THAT OVER 4,400 EXISTING MINING CLAIMS ARE LOCATED IN OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THESE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS.

THE SAME HOUSE REPORT INCLUDES A LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE HOUSE BILL FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. THIS LETTER INDICATES THAT THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE HAS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING MINERAL POTENTIAL AND OTHER CONFLICTS, WITH 10 OF THE 14 WILDERNESS AREAS PROPOSED IN THE BILL. IT IS INTERESTING TO

NOTE THAT THE FOUR AREAS TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE DOES NOT OBJECT ARE THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS IN S.B. 722--THE HECHT-LAXALT BILL.

EFFECTS ON GRAZING

THE RANCHING COMMUNITY IN RURAL NEVADA ALSO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, THE WILDERNESS BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE WOULD INCLUDE 140 GRAZING ALLOTMENTS FOR MORE THAN 46,000 HEAD OF LIVESTOCK. IN CONTRAST, S.B. 722 WOULD INCLUDE ONLY 15 GRAZING ALLOTMENTS FOR ALMOST 8,600 HEAD OF LIVESTOCK.

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES ASSURE THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING GRAZING RIGHTS. HOWEVER, AS WITH MINING, THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY WILDERNESS DESIGNATION CAN PLACE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC BURDENS ON RANCHERS BY LIMITING MEANS OF ACCESS AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THEIR GRAZING ALLOTMENTS.

OTHER CONCERNS

I WOULD LIKE TO ENTER INTO THE RECORD A PORTION OF THE DISSENTING VIEW FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS CONCERNING AN EXPANDED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR NEVADA. THESE VIEWS ECHO MY OWN SENTIMENTS AND PROBABLY THOSE OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NEVADA RESIDENTS AS WELL.

THE CONGRESS:

HAS PASSED NUMEROUS WILDERNESS BILLS PLACING MILLIONS OF ACRES INTO THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE (WILDERNESS) SYSTEM. PLACING QUALITY WILDERNESS LANDS INTO THE

PRESERVATION SYSTEM IS A COMMENDABLE GOAL. HOWEVER, WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE NEVADA WILDERNESS (BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS), THE MAJORITY HAS MOVED FROM DESIGNATING WILDERNESS FOR THEIR QUALITY TO ADDING ACREAGE IT SEEMS BASED SOLELY ON THE QUANTITY OF ACREAGE. THE NEARLY ONE MILLION ACRES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE FAR EXCEEDS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT INVOLVED. ONE CAN CONCLUDE THAT THE NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN NEVADA HAVE BEEN WELL MANAGED IN THE PAST OR THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR WILDERNESS. THAT IS A STRONG STATEMENT FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT CONCEPT FOR NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.

ASSOCIATED WITH THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS WITH REASONABLE ACCESS TO PATENTED MINING CLAIMS AND ACCESS NEEDED BY GRAZING PERMITTEES. TIME AND TIME AGAIN IT IS STATED THAT THEY CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR CLAIMS. UNFORTUNATELY ACCESS IS RARELY GRANTED BECAUSE ANY TYPE OF TRAIL OR ROADWAY TO ACCESS ANY CLAIM IN WILDERNESS IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE PURPOSE OF WILDERNESS--THE OLD "CATCH 22" SITUATION.

DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL, THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS:

REJECTED, BY A VOTE OF 20-19, AN AMENDMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE STRANG TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CREATION OF NEW WILDERNESS AREAS OR NATIONAL PARKS IN NEVADA WOULD NOT CREATE NEW FEDERAL WATER RIGHTS. THE COMMITTEE CHOSE INSTEAD TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN THE BILL MAINTAINING THE NEUTRALITY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT ON THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE ARE FEDERAL RESERVED RIGHTS FOR WILDERNESS AREAS, A MATTER NOW IN LITIGATION IN FEDERAL COURT IN COLORADO.

THE RESERVATION OR "RESERVED RIGHTS" DOCTRINE IS A JUDICIALLY CREATED DOCTRINE OF FEDERAL LAW. THE DOCTRINE INFERS FROM THE CREATION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FEDERAL LAND RESERVATIONS A CONGRESSIONAL INTENT TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT WATER TO FULFILL THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE LAND RESERVATION. THE RESERVATION DOCTRINE WAS APPLIED BY THE FEDERAL COURTS ONLY TO INDIAN RESERVATIONS FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS AFTER ITS CREATION BY THE SUPREME COURT AND, INDEED, WAS USUALLY REGARDED AS A SPECIAL RULE OF INDIAN LAW OR TREATY CONSTRUCTION.

THE RESERVATION DOCTRINE MAY HAVE HAD A PURPOSE WHEN APPLIED ONLY TO INDIAN RESERVATIONS, BUT, AS THE SUPREME COURT HAS RECOGNIZED, IT IS APPARENT THAT IT CAN CAUSE REAL AND SERIOUS HARDSHIP FOR WATER USERS THROUGHOUT THE WEST IF CARELESSLY EXTENDED. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO SERVE NOTICE THAT WE WILL GIVE THE MOST CAREFUL SCRUTINY TO ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION WHICH RESERVES FEDERAL LANDS, OR COULD BE USED TO EFFECT A RESERVATION OF FEDERAL LANDS, AND WHICH MIGHT THEREFORE BE INTERPRETED TO EFFECT A RESERVATION OF WATER RIGHTS, TO INSURE THAT IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE WATER LAW SYSTEM OF THE STATE IN WHICH THOSE LANDS ARE LOCATED.

IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE STRONGLY INCLINED TO OPPOSE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS UNTIL THIS MATTER CAN BE CLEARLY RESOLVED. WHILE MANY OF US HAVE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN THE PAST, AND WOULD EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE STATE CONTROL OVER WATER RESOURCES TO THE GOAL OF ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS.

THESE DISSENTING REMARKS WERE PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 10, 1985, BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. DON YOUNG;
2. LARRY E. CRAIG;
3. JAMES V. HANSEN;
4. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH;
5. BILL HENDON;
6. JOE BARTON;
7. JOHN MCCAIN;
8. CHARLES PASHAYAN, JR.;
9. RON MARLENEE;
10. ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO;
11. MANUEL LUJAN, JR.;
12. DICK CHENEY;
13. BILL EMERSON;
14. MIKE STRANG;
15. DENNY SMITH; AND
16. BEN BLAZ.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

IN CLOSING, I WOULD MOST RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOUR COMMITTEE CAREFULLY REVIEW THE EXCELLENT WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE HECHT-LAXALT-VUCANOVICH PROPOSALS. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NEVADANS, AS EVIDENCED THROUGH THE BIPARTISAN APPROVAL OF A.J.R. 1, SUPPORT THESE FOREST LANDS AS WILDERNESS--BUT NO MORE THAN THAT!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF MY REMARKS.

BB/dr:WILDERNES1-8:2/7/86

File Number 76

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Byron L. Bilyeu
Speaker of the Assembly

Maureen B. Landing
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Robert R. Coulter
President of the Senate

Janice L. Thomas
Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF NEVADA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

APPROVED

Date 25 May '85

Hour 1930

Governor

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining

FILE NUMBER 76

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Congress to enact legislation designating additional land in Nevada as wilderness.

WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Nevada have a tremendous respect for its lands and strongly support the wise use and conservation of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 87 percent of the land in this state, including over 4,000,000 acres which have been withdrawn from use by the general public, is controlled by various agencies of the Federal Government and, therefore, the state is particularly vulnerable to decisions regarding the use of land which are made by federal agencies and not the people or elected officers of the state; and

WHEREAS, The economic well-being of this state, particularly some of its more rural communities, is heavily dependent on access to, and use of, the federal public lands for mining and ranching; and

WHEREAS, The future of mining in this state is dependent upon the availability of federal lands and the loss of areas with potential for the production of minerals would be harmful to this state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States now is reviewing proposed legislation which would designate as wilderness approximately 136,900 acres in this state, including portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak and additions to the existing Jarbidge wilderness area; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these areas, there is general support in this state for the designation of an additional 1,322,900 acres as wilderness in the Desert National Wildlife Range; and

WHEREAS, There has been a considerable amount of public discussion in Nevada regarding designations of wilderness areas and there is a general consensus supporting the designation of those areas as wilderness; and

WHEREAS, The committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature is a permanent entity of the legislature and is empowered to review and comment on proposals affecting public lands under the control of the Federal Government, and in this respect the committee serves as an official liaison between the Nevada legislature when the legislature is not in session and the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That this legislature urges the Congress of the United States to designate as wilderness portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak, and the Jarbidge area, as identified in federal legislation now pending in Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to designate as wilderness those portions of the Desert National Wildlife Range which have been recommended for designation as wilderness by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to keep the committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature informed of additional discussions regarding potential designations of wilderness in the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the legislative counsel shall forthwith transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada congressional delegation, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the United States House of Representatives, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water of the United States Senate, the chief of the United States Forest Service and the director of the Bureau of Land Management.

STATE OF NEVADA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

Date May 21, 1985

Hour 1530

No. of Pages 2

TIME LIMIT FOR ACTION BY GOVERNOR

Expires on May 27, 1985

Danelle Snodgrass
Secretary to Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED AND FILED

Date May 28, 1985

Hour 10:30 am

Secretary of State

By
Receiving Clerk

Senator HECHT. Let us go in order. Senator Bilbray.

STATEMENT OF JAMES BILBRAY, NEVADA STATE SENATOR

Mr. BILBRAY. Yes. I am Senator Bilbray, representing Senate district No. 7, which is basically the Winchester-Paradise area of Clark County. I'm also a member and representative of the Select Committee on Public Lands of the State of Nevada Legislature, which is an interim committee or a standing committee of the Nevada Legislature that meets even when we are not in session. I also have Commissioner Karen Hayes, who is a member and is the nonlegislative member of that committee.

At the end of the last session, the Public Lands Subcommittee took the direction of the State legislature in support of the resolution of the State legislature supporting the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill. After meeting in Washington and meeting with Senator Hecht and other members of the Nevada delegation, plus other members of both the House and the Senate Public Lands Subcommittees, the committee has now taken a more pragmatic view of this particular legislation.

The committee believes that the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill will not, in its shape, end up being passed, nor do we believe that the House version will pass in its entirety. The committee, being pragmatic as I stated, now believes that we want to urge the Senate and the House to work out a compromise legislation between the two sides. We realize that we will not get the smaller amount, nor will we get the larger amount, but some bill needs to be passed and needs to be passed in the immediate future.

The committee, therefore, urges that the two committees work together, our delegation work together, and sit down and compromise because all that's happening right now is there is a real inflaming of emotions throughout the State. There are some misconceptions both ways, and we feel that for the benefit of our State a wilderness bill needs to be passed in this coming year.

We need to work out this problem because of the fact that most of the areas now remain in fact wilderness until this is worked out. So the Public Lands Subcommittee, we believe, in the last year and a half has moved at least two steps forward from the resolution of our legislature, mainly because we continue to work on it and continue to work on it, and I believe if the speaker and other members of the legislature had been with the committee they would come to the same conclusion.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bilbray follows:]

STATEMENT BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE'S
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Reference S.B. 722--The Hecht-Laxalt Wilderness Bill--and other proposals in Congress to designate certain United States Forest Service lands in Nevada as wilderness.

February 13 and 14, 1986
Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS IS A PERMANENT STATUTORY COMMITTEE CREATED BY THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PROPOSALS AND PRACTICES AFFECTING PUBLIC LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THIS STATE. THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION AND HEARING OF PUBLIC LANDS MATTERS. IN THIS CAPACITY, THE COMMITTEE SERVES AS AN OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS NOT IN SESSION AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS HAS HELD FOUR MEETINGS AROUND THE STATE SINCE THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED IN JUNE 1985. THESE MEETINGS WERE HELD ON AUGUST 16, 1985, IN RENO; OCTOBER 7, 1985, IN ELKO; DECEMBER 16, 1985, IN LAS VEGAS; AND FEBRUARY 7, 1986, IN LAS VEGAS. DURING THESE MEETINGS, THE COMMITTEE HEARD EXTENSIVE TESTIMONY, CONDUCTED RESEARCH AND PROMOTED ACTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE IN NEVADA.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO VISITED WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM OCTOBER 16 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 1985. DURING THIS VISIT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS MET WITH NEVADA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND WITH 17 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OR THEIR STAFFS AND FOUR KEY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC LANDS MATTERS. THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA WAS A MAJOR ISSUE DISCUSSED AT THESE MEETINGS.

BASED ON ITS THOROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN THE WILDERNESS ISSUE, THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING VIEW CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LANDS AS WILDERNESS IN NEVADA.

THE COMMITTEE'S VIEW

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS RECOGNIZES THAT THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN THIS STATE MOST LIKELY WILL BE RESOLVED BY COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE DIVERGENT PROPOSALS FROM THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS. THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TAKES AN ACTIVE STAND TOWARD A REASONABLE COMPROMISE WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR STATE.

THE 1985 SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADOPTED ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 (FILE NO. 76) WITH ONLY FOUR DISSENTING VOTES OUT OF 63 MEMBERS. THIS RESOLUTION URGES THE CONGRESS TO ENACT SPECIFIC WILDERNESS LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE 136,900 ACRES IN FOUR AREAS OF UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN NEVADA AS WILDERNESS. THIS LEGISLATION IS REFLECTED IN S.B. 722 AND H.R. 1686, SPONSORED, RESPECTIVELY, BY SENATORS HECHT AND LAXALT AND BY REPRESENTATIVE VUCANOVICH. THIS RESOLUTION ALSO URGES CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE AS WILDERNESS THE 1,322,900 ACRES OF THE DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE WHICH HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

IN A PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION TO THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SERVE ON PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEES, THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS REAFFIRMED THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE. THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT OTHER PROPOSALS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED. HOWEVER, THESE OTHER PROPOSALS MAY NOT ADEQUATELY CONSIDER THE UNIQUE NATURE OF NEVADA.

NEVADA IS UNIQUE AMONG THE STATES BECAUSE ABOUT 86.5 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN THE STATE IS CONTROLLED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO, OVER 4 MILLION ACRES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE MILITARY AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES FROM USE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. NEVADA FACES CONTINUED WITHDRAWALS OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND FURTHER WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS OF LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE, NEVADA IS VULNERABLE TO LAND USE DECISIONS MADE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES RATHER THAN THE PEOPLE OR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE STATE.

NEVADA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES ALSO ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS FOR MINING AND RANCHING. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF MINES, NEVADA HAS POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 17 STRATEGIC OR CRITICAL MINERAL COMMODITIES; AND MANY OF THE WILDERNESS AREAS PROPOSED IN CONGRESS HAVE POTENTIAL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THESE STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS. THE LOSS OF AREAS WITH POTENTIAL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MINERALS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THIS STATE AND TO THE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF OUR NATION.

THE EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE BY THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE INDICATES THAT COMPROMISE EFFORTS IN CONGRESS MUST TAKE CAREFUL ACCOUNT OF THESE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEVADA.

CONCLUSION

THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WILDERNESS AREAS AS AN APPROPRIATE SPECIFIC USE OF SOME OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA. THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOGNIZES THE POLITICAL REALITIES THAT EXIST IN CONGRESS CONCERNING THE WILDERNESS ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE POLITICAL REALITIES MUST BE TEMPERED BY THE ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES THAT EXIST IN THE STATE OF NEVADA.

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, THEREFORE, URGES CONGRESS TO WORK ACTIVELY DURING THIS CONGRESSIONAL SESSION TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON THE DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA WHICH ADEQUATELY ACCOUNTS FOR THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR STATE. THIS COMMITTEE ALSO PLEDGES ITS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY CAPACITY AND TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE IN EFFORTS BY THE APPROPRIATE MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE SUCH A COMPROMISE.

ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE AND THE CITIZENS WHO WE REPRESENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU AND COMMEND YOU FOR BRINGING THESE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TO NEVADA AND FOR PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS.

WITH BEST WISHES AND REGARDS,

SENATOR DEAN A. RHOADS, CHAIRMAN
ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID D. NICHOLAS, VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR JAMES H. BILBRAY
ASSEMBLYMAN VIRGIL M. GETTO
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN W. MARVEL
SENATOR JOHN M. VERGIELS
CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER KAREN W. HAYES

Senator HECHT. Commissioner.

STATEMENT OF KAREN HAYES, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. HAYES. Senator, I am here as a member of the Public Lands Committee. I would just echo what the Senator said.

However, as a commission we also have passed a resolution in our county commission basically stating the same thing. We felt that it was inappropriate for us to tell the rest of the State what they should do with their wilderness. We are in agreement with both their bill and Congressman Reid's bill and what it does to Clark County and the area that was chosen in Clark County.

Again, we would urge that the two houses get together and come up with a compromise. We know that's what is going to happen. We feel it is very important that it be done this session of Congress.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much for your testimony.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES HORN, ASSEMBLYMAN, CLARK COUNTY, NV

Mr. HORN. Senator Hecht, I will center my remarks around the formula which constitutes the supreme law of this land in matters of this nature.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Please identify yourself for the record.

Mr. HORN. I'm sorry. I'm Chuck Horn, assemblyman, district 3, Clark County. Would you like me to begin again?

Senator HECHT. Sure.

Mr. HORN. I will center my remarks around the formula which constitutes the supreme law of this land in matters of this nature contained within articles I and IV of our Constitution which our elected officials were to uphold. The record is abundantly clear. The specific examples used are the vested and enumerated powers of Congress beyond which all acts were intended to be declared null and void by an honorable court.

Thomas Jefferson stated:

> Whenever the general government assumes undelegated powers its acts are unauthoritative, void and have no force. Where powers are assumed which have not been delegated a nullification of the acts is the rightful remedy.

If it is determined to ignore these enumerated limitations, let us at least give reverence to the formula as stated and explained by Madison in the Federalist. Due to time constraints, I can only paraphrase. In article I, talking about the seat of government, he says, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislatures of the States in which the same shall be for the erection of forts, magazines, and of course, defense mechanisms.

And then he goes on to explain why the consent of the legislature, and, going on, talking about those defense mechanisms, he further explains all objections and scruples are here also obviated by requiring the concurrence of the States concerned in every such

establishment. Again, part of the formula is the concurrence of the States.

And then, in section 4, the admission of new States cannot be attained—this is article IV, section 3, paragraph 1—without the consent of the legislatures of the States concerned as well as the Congress. The importance of this, he then enumerated, is that eventual establishment of new States seems to be overlooked by the compilers of the Articles of Confederation. This inconvenience they noticed and overcame because they saw the assumption of powers which they greatly disavowed.

He talked about consonant principles and again talked about the consent of the States. This formula has been accomplished in A.J.R. 1. It was initiated by the Congress, was consented to by the State legislature, and in harmony with those principles, thereby outlined in our supreme law. We should adhere, then, to that bill, which has been consented to by the States.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Jane, let us start with you. Would you identify yourself and go right on down the line?

STATEMENT OF JANE HAM, ASSEMBLYWOMAN, CLARK COUNTY, NV

Ms. HAM. I am Assemblywoman Jane Ham of district 16, Clark County.

It's not a question of whether we will designate wilderness or not. The question is how much of it will we designate. As a Nevada assemblyman I am concerned for the economic health of our State and the water and mineral rights of Nevada citizens. The mining and cattle industries in Nevada mean jobs for our citizens. The mining industry was welcomed into the State as part of our economic diversification program.

It's fine to say that we must preserve wilderness for our children and, in my case, grandchildren. But, if in the future we are lacking jobs in Nevada our children will have to move out of the State to seek employment elsewhere. The Seiberling and Reid bills are a direct attack on our economic diversification efforts in Nevada. Under that program, Governor Bryan himself has welcomed out-of-State mining operators into our State.

Under the Seiberling and Reid bill, rural Nevada could lose out on vast mineral resources that have not yet been discovered. Designation of an area as wilderness prohibits mining exploration. It will lock away forever strategic minerals needed by the Nation for defense purposes. With the unstable situation in South Africa, where the United States gets much of its strategic minerals, we should be aware of our vulnerability.

Nevada supplies all of the Nation's magnacite, most of the mercury and marite, and 58 percent of the gold for this country. The Reagan administration is committed to improving our ability to meet our energy and mineral requirements from domestic resources.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Let us go right on down the line.

STATEMENT OF LUCILLE LUSK, CHAIRMAN, SCHOOL BOARD, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. LUSK. Thank you. My name is Lucille Lusk, and I speak solely as an ordinary resident of Las Vegas who has no mining interests and owns no cattle. As I have followed the wilderness issue, I have repeatedly been insulted by statements by the sponsor of H.R. 3302 claiming that only greedy outside interests are in opposition to that particular bill. I find this insulting.

It implies that Nevada people can't read a bill, can't study maps, can't evaluate what's happened in other States, and form our own opinions. The sponsor seems to believe that Washington, DC, is wiser. Perhaps that's why H.R. 3302 fails to provide adequate protections to retain Nevada control of such matters as water rights, grazing rights, and mining interests and fails to keep those under the control of Nevadans.

The Federal Government has a long arm. In its benevolent wisdom, it will help us manage our own affairs through every crack and loophole they can find. The Federal 55-mile-per-hour speed limit is an example of this, with little consideration for the needs of the citizens of the State of Nevada.

I recently heard a friend say I can think of nothing more ominous than hearing someone say I'm from Washington and I'm here to help you. [Laughter.]

The sponsor of H.R. 3302 states that only six-tenths of 1 percent of the land is included in wilderness. Has he forgotten that 86 percent of Nevada land is already controlled by the Federal Government? I'd like to know how that compares with other States and are we really so selfish for wishing to retain control of only 14 percent of our destiny?

S. 722 and H.R. 1686 differ from H.R. 3302 in significant ways. They contain better safeguards for control of vital resources by Nevadans. In addition, they designate a moderate amount of wilderness, thus releasing us from the threat of locking up massive amounts of land in de facto wilderness. We ask you to carry the Nevada message to Washington for us. We can read and write and think for ourselves, and we will control our own destiny.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF PAT LITTLE, ASSEMBLYWOMAN, NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. LITTLE. Mr. Chairman, I am Pat Little, assembly district 19 in North Las Vegas, and I speak for most of the majority of Nevadans in the city of North Las Vegas. We oppose any wilderness in Nevada. I speak for myself and the majority of my constituents in North Las Vegas. They enjoy camping in the outdoors. They feel this bill will shut out most of the most beautiful land in Nevada to them.

Nevada belongs to all Nevadans. This bill excludes the majority of these residents. I feel an opportunity should be made for the wilderness groups to purchase some land. This way would be better and an investment. Right now all this land is open to the public and I see no reason for any wilderness bill. I feel it was quite evi-

dent in years past that the Sagebrush Rebellion was a statement made to Washington.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Well, thank you very much.

I would like to direct the first question to the speaker of the house. Yesterday Governor Bryan testified the intent of A.J.R. 1 was to endorse a minimum amount of wilderness. Was that the intent of the resolution?

Mr. BILYEU. No, it was not, Senator. As a matter of fact, A.J.R. 1 was in the Nevada Legislature for over 5 months. It was amended twice before it was passed. There were extensive discussions. One of the discussions that was conducted on the senate side—and I happen to be looking at the minutes right now—was a proposed amendment by Senator Bilbray that would have essentially declared that. That particular amendment was defeated.

It was not the intent of the legislature on A.J.R. 1. I would say the intent of A.J.R. 1 was closer to this far and no farther. You recall also, Senator, that, as you have become aware and know better than I, that we are dealing here only with the issue of the Forest Service wilderness areas. We still have the BLM proposals that are before us, and in those the current recommendation of the administration—I've got some figures from the public lands people—is 1.3 million acres to be set aside for BLM wilderness.

But I can definitively say that as far as I know A.J.R. 1 was intended as a statement—this far and no farther.

Senator HECHT. Senator Bilbray, since he mentioned your name I will certainly give you a chance to speak on this.

Mr. BILBRAY. Yes, Senator. In the committee we discussed this thoroughly. It was decided on the senate side. As you notice, we stuck the names of the sponsors of the house bill because we didn't really want to get involved in a fight between the house and senate members of our delegation.

It was our feeling again that this was just a minimum standard. I support the Governor's view. And again the committee has continued to work on it for 1½ years, and the Select Committee on Public Lands, which Dean Rose is chairman of—and I believe he testified in front of your committee before—has taken a more pragmatic view that after having reviewed it—and the legislature has not been in session for the last year—and therefore they don't see the changes.

They have not met with you and your staff and other staff members in Washington and we just feel it's a minimum standard and we have to work it out. I think everybody here knows that compromise has to be worked out, Senator. I think you know it has to be worked out to get something passed in both houses.

Senator HECHT. Well, you know, you mentioned in your opening testimony about emotions. There are emotions on this issue. Obviously there are many ranchers who testified that their grazing rights or water rights or access rights would be threatened. Many of these ranchers have held these ranches in their families for over 100 years, so obviously there is a lot of emotions on this.

I am glad that I am having these hearings in the State. We have had 5 days, where the House just had one hearing in Washington. I question whether we are allowing enough time for this, and my

staff and I are talking maybe about even trying to come back again, because we have to protect the rights of these different individuals.

Has your committee and the Senate or, Bill, in the assembly looked as far as the grazing rights, water rights, and access rights of the different ranchers?

Mr. BILBRAY. We are continuing to look at that problem. The committee meets about every month and a half. We are going to meet the next time in Laughlin, I think in March or the first of April, and again those agenda items are brought up every time. We will be meeting in Laughlin and we would like to have participation from a member of your staff there to get your viewpoints on it.

It's open to the public. All meetings of the Public Lands Committee of the State legislature are open to the public. The representatives of the mining and ranching interests are always there. Their lobbists are always there in front of us presenting their views.

Senator HECHT. It was brought out every day during our testimony—I will ask this to the members of the legislature is it appropriate for a House committee in Washington to come up with a national park for this State without having one hearing in the State of Nevada or getting input from the State of Nevada.

As all of you are not aware, Congressman Seiberling and some other Eastern Congressmen had a helicopter trip, which I was on and Senator Bilbray joined us, and they analyzed the State, went back and drew a bill up. Do you think this is in the best interests of the State of Nevada?

Mr. BILBRAY. I think there should be hearings on it. I have been around the State, just as you have Senator, and in fact several Northern legislators have privately told me they favor it, but because it's such an emotional issue in the northern part of the State, especially in the rural areas, they really don't want to get involved in it. But the fact is I think there is a lot of support for a national park out there, especially in the White Pine area, but there is a lot of opposition, too.

And again I think it's always helpful to have these meetings. But again, as you well know, the cost of having these hearings and the cost of that helicopter trip viewing these areas was very expensive. I think that is something we have to weigh, especially in the light of Gramm-Rudman, how much we can spend to investigate these sort of things.

Senator HECHT. I kind of disagree with you. I do not think there is any issue that should not be met head-on by elected officials, no matter how controversial it is, because we cannot abdicate our responsibility and go to Washington and let them do it for us.

Yes, Karen?

Ms. HAYES. Yes, Senator. We have asked that to be on our agenda, have the national park on our agenda, and I'm not sure which meeting it is going to be on. But we will be having hearings on that. As of now we just informally talked about it, but it's never been a real agenda item.

Senator HECHT. When do you think you will have your first hearing on this?

Ms. HAYES. I'm not real sure. We have our next meeting in Laughlin, and I don't think it will be on that agenda.

Senator HECHT. Well, certainly I was not aware of that. That is one of the reasons we have these hearings. I would certainly hold off any action until we hear from you. What do you think about that?

Ms. HAYES. Well, this was just mentioned at our meeting last week, I believe. We had a Public Lands meeting last week. So we really haven't got that far into when we will have it. But we certainly would like to have it. As you know, our committee has been back in Washington many times lobbying for and against public lands, and we would love to have some input on this.

Senator HECHT. Personally my own philosophy is I think we should hold up any action until you do have hearings on this in the State. Can you give me some basis of a time frame?

Mr. BILBRAY. Well, if it's that important to you, Senator, I will call the staff of the Public Lands Subcommittee in our State legislature and I would think that we would prefer to have that sort of meeting up in the rural areas rather than in Laughlin, which is as far away from Elko and Ely and those areas as you can possibly get in this State.

We have an April meeting. We probably will not have another meeting of that sort until probably around June, I would not think.

Senator HECHT. June is a tough timeframe, you know. This is an election year.

Mr. BILBRAY. I will ask Chairman Rose of the committee if we could have a meeting earlier than that in the White Pine area to discuss this issue. The committee is primarily rural in nature—John Marble, Dean Rose, Dave Nicholas, Jack Vergiels of the southern Nevada legislature, and I—those are the only two southern Nevadans—and Karen Hayes. But those people are very, very much interested.

I will ask that we have a meeting as soon as possible on that issue, and Commissioner Hayes has said she would support me in that.

Senator HECHT. Well, do you not think that is our responsibility, to hear from the elected officials of the State before we take any action in Washington?

Mr. BILBRAY. Well, I think it is. In fact, it was brought up at the last meeting. Some person had suggested that we take a stand on it, one of the members of the committee, and it was felt we didn't have enough input ourselves to make a stand on it, that we wanted to hear testimony first, which we think was the responsible way to make that decision.

Senator HECHT. I guarantee you if you go to Ely you will have 500 people turn out and they will tell you how they feel about it.

Charles, do you have anything on that?

Mr. HORN. Senator, I would simply like to applaud your approach to this matter. I think the bottom line is asking people are we content to be governed by the whims of emotion or by the stability of laws passed through due process, and that due process certainly includes the input of the people themselves and that government which is closest to them. So I applaud that effort. I think it's the right way to do it.

Senator HECHT. Jimmy had his hand up.

Mr. BILBRAY. Yes. I was just going to state for the record that the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Nevada State Legislature, which is the assembly and senate members, is the official liaison between our State legislature and the Congress, and that's why we do have hearings and that's why we make so many trips back to meet with you. We will continue to ferret out this particular problem and try to give you good and impartial and unbiased feelings of our people of our districts and our State.

Senator HECHT. Well, we had our first hearing in Ely for one reason. They are the most affected by this bill. They are the ones that have lands taken away and a national park. So before we started our statewide tour I wanted to hear from them first. So I applaud the fact that you have a State hearing in Ely. I think they should be heard.

Bill, how do you feel about that?

Mr. BILYEU. Very strongly, Senator. As you know, I was at the meeting when Congressman Seiberling's helicopter landed in Elko and heard Congressman Seiberling inform us that he knew what was best for the people of the State of Nevada. I think that it's extremely important that we, the Public Lands Committee, does hold hearings and get input on that vital area.

In addition, there are still so many unresolved issues. As I mentioned in my written remarks, there is a concern that I expressed about water rights in terms of the House bill, and, as you may recall, in the House it was rejected by a vote of 20 to 19, an amendment by Representative Strange, to make clear that the wilderness areas of national parks in Nevada would not create new Federal water rights, and that was defeated in the House and the language was not included in the bill.

And with 100 percent of Nevadans living on 13 percent of their own State, we have at least been privileged historically to use our State. Regretably, that is, when you withdraw it, we can't. And if we're going to grow as a State and be economically diversified, we need land, we need water, we need those resources, and anything that potentially attacks those ought to be very, very carefully scrutinized by us and given input to you.

Senator HECHT. Well, the Governor testified yesterday he was in favor of a scaled-down version of the national park. We have had a lot of testimony in favor of a scaled-down version. The original proposal is how many acres—174,000 acres in the amended House bill, and I think the Governor testified 120,000 acres.

But I think at the State level, not just at the national level, we have to look at these water rights. I am not an attorney, but I can tell you every rancher up there is worried about his water rights, and I can't blame him. Without that, he is out of business. And this has got to be done at the local level.

Congressman Reid said yesterday that the Senate would look at this—and we will look at that—but I do want to throw this back to you and, Karen, I hope you will take all of these rights of the individuals into consideration. You know, after 100 years they are deserving of some.

Jane, you are on the other side. You are a member of the legislature. How do you feel about this, to have a State hearing in Ely?

Ms. HAM. Oh, yes, definitely we should. Those are the people affected by the national parks, of course.

Senator HECHT. In your testimony economic diversification was brought out. During the days of hearings many, many times the figure is in the area of 125 out-of-State mining companies in here, mining/petroleum companies in our State. Our State has the largest mineral production of any State out of the 50, and so it is an economic diversification issue right now.

Would you care to expand on that, because you brought that up and this has been brought up all over?

Ms. HORN. Well, as you know, the State legislature passed an economic and tourism bill in the 1983 session, and we are dedicated to that plan to diversify our economy because who knows what will happen with the gaming business. We want to see our citizens prosper.

And, as I said before, the enlarged wilderness bill is a threat to that diversification because it precludes exploration for new minerals.

Senator HECHT. Jimmy and Karen, since you are both on the committee, let me just say to you I cannot in good conscience make any decision on this until I hear from you. I think that we owe it to the people of Nevada. So if you could have a meeting as soon as possible, I would really appreciate it because I am going to hold up until I hear from you.

When do you think the earliest time is?

Mr. BILBRAY. Well, I will call in March—as Karen indicated, we have a meeting in March. At this point we would readjust that Laughlin meeting and certainly have this meeting before the Laughlin meeting. I know the people down there are really concerned about a lot of their problems that you are aware of down there with the State and so forth, but we can readjust it in some way or another or maybe even have two meetings in a short period of time.

There is a budget constraint we have also. Our committee is only limited to a certain amount of money in our budget, but with Speaker Bilyeu's support I am sure we can get our budget expanded.

Senator HECHT. Speaker Bilyeu, is that a possibility? [Laughter.]

Mr. BILYEU. I will talk to Senator Gibson.

Senator HECHT. They call that passing the buck.

Well, just one other question. Tony, when do you think we will have the record of all these statewide hearings? When is that possible to get?

Mr. BEVINETTO. About 5 months, Senator. It will be 5 hearings, close to 500 people, plus the written testimony, so it's a major publishing job.

Senator HECHT. Maybe we can kind of give you a synopsis of it before you have your hearing. We will not have everything, so you will at least get an idea of what the testimony was around the State.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The transcript should be available in about 2 or 3 weeks.

Senator HECHT. How does that sound? We will give that to you as soon as it is available so you can pass it out to the different

members. Bill, you might want to pass it out to different members of the legislature.

Mr. BILYEU. Yes, I would.

Senator HECHT. You got that, Scott? As soon as we get it, get it right to them. I think that would be a good idea, that all members of the State legislature have a copy of it to let them know what is going on. I realize financial constraints. They cannot travel around the State like we can, and it would be a big help.

I have no further questions. Excuse me, one question here. I had this written down and forgot. How do the three of you down there feel about the BLM, Fish and Wildlife, and the Park Service wilderness bills? I mean, are you taking this into consideration in your deliberations—the proposals, I mean?

Mr. BILBRAY. It is a concern to the committee, just like every Nevadan, and we certainly support a lot of the views—the fact that too much of our land is in Federal hands—and we brought that up to you before. In fact, we are now working on a package asking for certain select releases that we talked to you and other Members of Congress on. And so we are concerned about expansion.

We also understand the problems of the ranchers and miners. I own a ranch in central Nevada in the Big Smokey Valley, so I am also a rancher, a very limited rancher. There's no profit in ranching, I'll tell you that.

Senator HECHT. It is a good image for politics, though. Look at our President.

Mr. BILBRAY. Maybe better than a lawyer, I'll tell you.

Senator HECHT. Let the record show I said to Bill I mean proposals and also for all of you we do not know what these proposals are at the moment. They are being worked on at the present time.

Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Mrs. Reid. Mrs. Reid, come right on up. Why do you not just take this table right here? Thank you very much for appearing before us today.

STATEMENT OF LANDRA REID, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. REID. Good morning, I am Landra Reid. Senator Hecht, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to let me speak about Nevada and its future. I'm not here today to talk about the specifics of my husband's legislation, which is one of two bills being considered by this body. Instead, I am here to talk about Nevada.

I understand the importance of mining to Nevada and especially in rural communities. But I think that 99 percent of Nevada is enough to set aside for mining. I realize the importance of recreation to families. Our family has had a four-wheel drive vehicle and we have enjoyed the fun of getting off the main roads for camping and hiking and picnicking, but I think that 99 percent of the State of Nevada is enough for four-wheel drive vehicles and snow mobiles.

I'm also proud that our State contributes so much of its lands to national defense through such installations as Nellis Air Force Base, but should we have 1 percent of the State of Nevada in its natural state. The areas I would like to see preserved are the remote mountain meadows, the aspin groves, the stands of moun-

tain mahogany, the bristle cone pine, which is the oldest tree in North America. I would like to see areas preserved for beavers to build dams, for elks to run free, and for eagles to glide unmolested. All these places exist in Nevada.

Because my husband represents Nevada, I often have the opportunity to talk to people about our State. I am always proud to talk about the glamor of Las Vegas and Reno or about Hoover Dam, but wouldn't it be wonderful to talk about one of the scenic wonders of the world, the Great Basin National Park?

We returned last night from a tour of rural Nevada. In Ely, an economically depressed community, I talked with women who worried about the future of their families. They face the prospect of rearing their children in Ely only to see them leave because there is no future there for them. A national park not only would be for the families all over the United States to enjoy but would keep the families of Ely together by providing employment and economic opportunity.

I believe Nevada should be known as something other than a place to set off bombs or a place to store the radioactive garbage from other States. In Nevada we have worked hard to become known as the entertainment capital of the world. We should be striving just as hard to promote the unique beauty of Nevada.

My wish for Nevada is that you, our elected representative, work for the benefit of Nevada. This means all of Nevada, from its urban centers to its rural communities, from its mining interests to its camping interests. I am confident that you have the best interests of the people of Nevada at heart, and I hope when you return to Washington that you will do all that you can for the rights of all Nevadans.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Give her a hand.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. I certainly have no intention of questioning you on your husband's bill, but I will just ask you one question. Do you favor what I just brought up to Senator Bilbray and the speaker of the house about the people of Nevada having a hearing on the national park in Ely at the State level?

Ms. REID. Well, I don't think it's my position to debate with you about the opportunities that the people of Nevada have had to talk to their elected representatives about their feelings about wilderness. You talked to my husband yesterday in Reno and asked him all those questions. I think that it's important to Nevada that we take care of our image and our families and that we preserve our land, and I think that we should work hard to do it and to do it as quickly as we can.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Thomas Roederer, Richard Reyburn, Tom Ballow.

Panel No. 3 can come down to the front row—Grant Gerber, Jim Cashman, Mahlon Faust, Homer Hansen, Tim Hafen, Gary Kent, and Richard Wyman.

Senator HECHT. Please identify yourself and start right in.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS A. ROEDERER, DEPUTY REGIONAL FORESTER, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. ROEDERER. My name is Tom Roederer, Deputy Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service.

In October 1982 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the California District Court decision that the RARE II environmental impact statement was inadequate with regard to specific RARE areas of California. In February 1983, in view of the court's ruling, the Forest Service began a nationwide reevaluation of all wilderness areas that had not already been designated as wilderness or released for other uses by law.

This reevaluation is part of the broad planning direction required in the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Since then extensive planning with public involvement has resulted in draft forest plans for the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests. The wilderness potential of each wilderness area is being carefully considered as part of this planning process.

The preferred alternatives in these two draft forest plans include proposals for 443,210 acres of wilderness designation in Nevada. In addition, we also anticipate proposing an 8,900-acre area on the Nevada portion of the Boundary Peak area of the Inyo National Forest. The draft plans recommend the following areas for wilderness designation.

On the Toiyabe National Forest, Arc Dome, 94,400 acres; Mt. Jefferson, Alta Toquima, 31,000 acres; Mt. Charleston, 32,000 acres. On the Humboldt National Forest, Mt. Moriah, 81,743 acres; Jarbidge addition, 23,440 acres; Wheeler Peak, 60,151 acres; Ruby Mountain, 67,093 acres; and Grant Range, 53,383—for a total of 443,210. In addition, there is the possibility of a recommendation of 8,900 acres on the Nevada portion of Boundary Peak.

We anticipate that there will be some changes in these proposals when the analysis of public involvement is completed from our final forest plans. Therefore, we recommend that national legislation not be taken until after the forest plans are finalized this summer.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Roederer follows:]

Statement of
TOM ROEDERER, DEPUTY REGIONAL FORESTER
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
FOREST SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands, Subcommittee on Reserved Water and Resource Conservation
United States Senate

Concerning Forest Service proposals on potential
wilderness designation in Nevada

February 10, 1986

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

We appreciate the opportunity to brief the Committee concerning legislation to designate certain National Forest System lands in Nevada as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Nevada has 5,150,000 acres of National Forest System lands. Included are the entire 2,528,000-acre Humboldt National Forest, 2,561,500 acres (or 80 percent) of the Toiyabe National Forest and 60,600 acres (or 3 percent) of the Inyo National Forest. Currently, there is one existing wilderness, the Jarbridge Wilderness totaling 64,667 acres. As part of the 1979 second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), 2,060,600 acres were inventoried as roadless. The objective of RARE II was to determine which lands were best suited for wilderness and which lands were better suited for other uses. Of that area, 473,500 acres, were recommended for wilderness designation and 261,700 acres recommended for further planning. The remaining acreage was recommended for multiple-use management other than wilderness.

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In October 1982, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a California District Court decision that the RARE II environmental impact statement was inadequate with regard to specific areas in California. In February 1983, in view of the court's ruling, the Forest Service began a nationwide reevaluation of all roadless areas that had not already been designated as wilderness or released for other uses by law. This reevaluation is part of the broad planning direction required in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Since then, extensive planning with public involvement has resulted in draft Forest Plans for the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests.

The wilderness potential of each roadless area is being carefully considered as part of this planning process. Since the Forest Plans are in draft form and are currently going through the final public review there could be some revision. The preferred alternative in draft Forest Plans include proposals for 443,210 acres for wilderness designation in Nevada. We also anticipate proposing a 8,900 acre area on the Nevada portion of the Boundary Peak area of the Inyo National Forest. We are studying the wilderness potential of the Boundary Peak area in both Nevada and California during our planning for the Inyo National Forest. The Draft Forest Plan and EIS is scheduled for public release this summer and will include our recommendation for management of the entire Boundary Peak area.

Since we are not yet ready with our final Forest Plans, we will present the

information from the draft plans. We anticipate some changes in these recommendations in the final plans based on the initial public responses. In Our draft Forest Plans for the Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forests we recommend wilderness designation of the following areas:

National Forest	Name	Acres
Toiyabe:	Arc Dome	94,400
	Mt. Jefferson (Alta Toquima)	31,000
	Mt. Charleston	32,000
Humboldt:	Mt. Moriah	81,743
	Jarbidge Addition	23,440
	Wheeler Peak (South Snake)	60,151
	Ruby Mountain	67,093
	Grant Range	53,383
	Total	443,210
Inyo:	Boundary Peak (Nevada Portion)	8,900 (RARE II)

In summary, we are proposing wilderness designation of 443,210 acres in the draft Forest Plans. We will make a recommendation on the Boundary Peak area this summer in the Draft Inyo National Forest Plan and EIS. We anticipate that there will be some changes in these proposals when the analysis is completed for our Final Forest plans. Therefore, we recommend that action on legislation not be taken until after our forest plans are finalized this summer. I would be pleased to answer questions the committee may have on our proposals.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD L. REYBURN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS

Mr. REYBURN. Senator Hecht, members of the staff, my name is Rich Reyburn, and I am executive director of the Nevada Department of Minerals. I am speaking today on behalf of the Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources.

When the State legislature created the Department of Minerals in 1983, their stated purpose was to benefit and promote the public welfare of all people in the State by encouraging the development and production of our State's mineral resources.

Our department is charged with the responsibility to preserve an equitable and workable system of discovery and acquisition of minerals deposits and interests in and on the public lands while retaining and defending the historic right of all citizens to have free access to and across public lands for all lawful pursuits and purposes.

Wilderness withdrawal is therefore important to us. The Commission on Mineral Resources, which establishes policy for our department, reviewed the U.S. Forest Service areas proposed for wilderness designation and determined that withdrawal of these public lands from mineral access would be detrimental to the industry, the State and to the Nation.

In April 1985, the commission unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Nevada wilderness legislation sponsored by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and Congresswoman Vucanovich. During the past 2 years our department has researched and assimilated data concerning the mineral potential in all areas which are under wilderness consideration.

Unfortunately, little is known of the potential in many of these areas, not because it doesn't exist but because it has never been explored. The absence of mineral data, however, does not indicate the absence of mineral potential. Our department has worked closely with each member of the Nevada congressional delegation and tried to supply them with as much minerals information as possible.

We appreciate their consideration of minerals issues in their bills. In fact, Congressman Reid omitted the proposed areas which border Railroad Valley from his original bill because of the rich oil deposits which produced over 3 million barrels of Nevada oil last year.

Mining is the second largest industry in the State and in 1984 the Nevada mineral production hit a gross value of $670 million, 7 percent of which stayed right here in Nevada. We live in a complex industrialized society and I think few of us would have it any other way, but that means that we have ever-increasing needs for mineral products. The opportunity to explore for and develop those minerals is essential unless we want to become even more dependent on foreign sources of supply. In order to maintain our way of life and to provide future generations the opportunity to meet their challenges, we must develop our natural resources.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Reyburn follows:]

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD L REYBURN
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
WILDERNESS HEARING
February 14, 1986
Las Vegas, Nevada

MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR HECHT, MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, MY NAME IS RICH REYBURN. I AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS. I WILL BE SPEAKING TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES.

WHEN THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS IN 1983, THEIR STATED PURPOSE WAS TO BENEFIT AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE BY ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF OUR STATE'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

OUR DEPARTMENT IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBLITY TO:

PRESERVE AN EQUITABLE AND WORKABLE SYSTEM OF DISCOVERY AND ACQUISITION OF MINERAL DEPOSITS AND INTERESTS IN AND ON THE PUBLIC LANDS, WHILE RETAINING AND DEFENDING THE HISTORIC RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO FREE ACCESS TO AND ACROSS PUBLIC LANDS FOR ALL LAWFUL PURSUITS AND PURPOSES.

AND TO:

ACHIEVE AN EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN MINERAL AND OTHER LEGITIMATE INTERSTS IN THE REALISTIC UTILIZATION OF THE PUBLIC LAND AND ITS SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE RESOURCES.

WILDERNESS WITHDRAWAL IS, THEREFORE, A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE WITH US.

THE COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES, WHICH ESTABLISHES POLICY FOR OUR DEPARTMENT, REVIEWED THE U.S.F.S. AREAS PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS DESGINATION AND DETERMINED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE PUBLIC LANDS FROM MINERAL ACCESS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE INDUSTRY, THE STATE AND THE NATION.

ON APRIL 19, 1985, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEVADA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY SENATORS LAXALT AND HECHT, AND CONGRESSMAN VUCANOVICH.

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THIS POSITION REPRESENTS A BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE COMPROMISE FOR PUBLIC LAND USERS AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE STATE'S MINERALS INDUSTRY.

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, OUR DEPARTMENT HAS RESEARCHED AND ASSIMILATED DATA CONCERNING THE MINERAL POTENTIAL IN ALL AREAS WHICH ARE UNDER WILDERNESS CONSIDERATION.

UNFORTUNATELY, LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE POTENTIAL IN MANY OF THESE AREAS -- NOT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T EXIST -- BUT BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN EXPLORED. HOWEVER, THE ABSENCE OF MINERAL DATA DOES NOT MEAN THE ABSENCE OF MINERAL POTENTIAL.

OUR DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH EACH MEMBER OF THE NEVADA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND TRIED TO SUPPLY THEM WITH AS MUCH MINERALS INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE. WE APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT CONGRESSMAN REID OMITTED THE PROPOSED AREAS WHICH BORDER RAILROAD VALLEY FROM HIS ORIGINAL BILL BECAUSE OF THE RICH OIL DEPOSITS WHICH PRODUCED OVER THREE MILLION BARRELS OF NEVADA OIL LAST YEAR.

MINING IS THE SECOND LARGEST INDUSTRY IN THE STATE AND ACCOUNTS FOR OVER HALF OF THE COUNTY PAYROLLS IN OVER HALF OF OUR COUNTIES:

- APPROXIMATELY $4 MILLION ARE PAID TO NEVADA COUNTIES ANNUALLY IN NET PROCEEDS OF MINES TAXES;
- MINERAL LEASES AND ROYALTIES PROVIDE $10 MILLION A YEAR TO NEVADA'S DISTRIBUTIVE SCHOOL FUND;
- THE OIL INDUSTRY SPENT $52 MILLION IN EXPLORATION COSTS IN NEVADA IN 1984; AND
-IN 1984, NEVADA MINERAL PRODUCTION HAD A GROSS VALUE OF $670 MILLION -- APPROXIMATELY 70% OF WHICH STAYS RIGHT HERE IN NEVADA.

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WE LIVE IN A COMPLEX INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETY -- AND FEW OF US WOULD HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY -- BUT THAT MEANS WE HAVE AN EVER INCREASING NEED FOR MINERAL PRODUCTS.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FOR AND DEVELOP THOSE MINERALS IS ESSENTIAL UNLESS WE WANT TO BECOME EVEN MORE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE AND PROVIDE FUTURE GENERATIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THEIR CHALLENGES, WE MUST DEVELOP OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. WE MUST SECURE A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS AND WE MUST BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN OUR STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS NEEDS. HISTORY HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT NO FIRST-RATE SOCIETY HAS SURVIVED WITH A SECOND-RATE MINERAL BASE.

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

RICHARD L. REYBURN
Director

DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS
400 W. King Street, Suite 106
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-5050

#2-85

RESOLUTION

BY THE

NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES

April 19, 1985

WHEREAS, the minerals industry of Nevada is important to the economic well being of the state, and

WHEREAS, that industry is dependent on access to the public lands of Nevada for minerals exploration and development, and

WHEREAS, wilderness withdrawals which would prohibit that exploration on large blocks of Nevada's remaining open lands would be detrimental to the industry, the state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, United States Forest Service lands selected for wilderness designation have been carefully reviewed by members of the industry for mineral resource potential, and

WHEREAS, the industry has concurred, through the various state mining associations, not to oppose wilderness designation for certain areas which include those known as Boundary Peak, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Charleston and the extension of the existing Jarbidge Wilderness, and

WHEREAS, those areas are recommended for wilderness designation in bills introduced in the United States Senate by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Vucanovich. Therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED, by the Commission on Mineral Resources, that we do fully support those bills and urge their enactment by the Congress of the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge such action to be accomplished as soon as possible to enable the release of other United States Forest Service lands in Nevada which are currently held in de facto wilderness status.

Fred D. Gibson, Jr.
Chairman

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roederer, you mentioned that your recommendation will not be until the summer?

Mr. ROEDERER. Yes. The public involvement process is currently being analyzed by both core supervisors and it is anticipated that final plans will be published sometime this summer.

Senator HECHT. And, if I heard you right, you recommend that we wait until you come forward with that?

Mr. ROEDERER. Yes. That is our recommendation.

Senator HECHT. Now, when you recommend that amount of line, whatever it might be, what will happen to the rest of the land now being tied up in wilderness designation?

Mr. ROEDERER. Once the forest plans are completed, they will be used for other than wilderness purposes, could be used for other than wilderness purposes.

Senator HECHT. Roughly, for the record and the people in the audience, how much land is being tied up in the State at the present time?

Mr. ROEDERER. The original RARE II evaluation covered about 2 million acres in the State of Nevada. Of that, about 472,000 acres were recommended as wilderness and something in the neighborhood of 261,000 were recommended as further planning.

Senator HECHT. Would you explain for the record what further planning is?

Mr. ROEDERER. Further planning means that there was something in the area that we were not sure of primarily, and in many cases it's minerals information, and further study was needed before a recommendation for or against wilderness could be made.

Senator HECHT. Then this is, in fact, de facto wilderness; is that correct?

Mr. ROEDERER. These areas are protected from any activity that would detract from a wilderness consideration.

Senator HECHT. So it is basically wilderness until such time as you make a further determination?

Mr. ROEDERER. That is correct, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Now, when you make recommendations, do you take into account the mineral potential, petroleum potential and all of these factors?

Mr. ROEDERER. Yes, we do. We attempt to gather as much information as possible in areas that are critical. We ask the U.S. Geologic Survey and the Bureau of Mines to give us a report.

Senator HECHT. We had two geologists, working geologists, who gave excellent testimony. Was that in Elko? It was in Elko. And they, both of them, said they have been geologists for over 20, 25 years in the State, and they said they are looking at lands now that they looked at 10 years ago and they are gold mines right now because of the new processes with which you mine gold today.

They said this is true of so many other things, and I asked them what about the minerals that we have been getting from South Africa and other parts of Africa and around the world that would be cut off? Do you feel there are strategic minerals in the State of Nevada? And they said yes.

How do you feel about that?

Mr. ROEDERER. Our wilderness proposals, when we go through the land management planning process or other evaluations, take into consideration all of the minerals evaluation information that is available, both from the State and national agencies. And we attempt to resolve those conflicts as best we can in the final boundary locations.

So those boundaries that will evolve from the forest planning process will consider minerals evaluations and information available right up to that date to try to resolve those conflicts.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Reyburn, do you feel they take enough into account on the minerals?

Mr. REYBURN. Senator, a lot of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and USGS studies that were mandated in the act of 1964 have not been made, or at least there have been no reports issued on them.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines did make a very cursory examination of the, I believe, 18 areas that were originally considered in Forest Service wilderness, and in most every case they have listed some strategic minerals that might be in those withdrawn areas.

It was also interesting to me in the Toiyabe plan of the Forest Service from 1985, that in all cases except Mount Charleston, a higher minerals value was given to the land in question, and this is by the Forest Service themselves than the wilderness values, in some cases ranging up to nearly 100 to 1 times greater minerals value than wilderness value.

Senator HECHT. As I mentioned earlier, in testimony about 125 mining companies are in the State right now. Do you meet with these periodically, these companies? Are you in contact with them?

Mr. REYBURN. Yes, most certainly.

Senator HECHT. What is the figure? I mean that is pretty close, is it not?

Mr. REYBURN. It would be very difficult to get a figure because there are a number of small operations that may not be counted in your total. I think that there are actually some 400 mining locations operating in the State at this time.

Senator HECHT. Also what was brought out in testimony which surprised a lot of people, an Exxon representative brought out the tremendous amount of petroleum reserves that they feel is in the State.

Do you also monitor that?

Mr. REYBURN. Yes, we do.

Senator HECHT. How do you feel about that?

Mr. REYBURN. This, along with the geothermal industry, is one of the fastest growing minerals products that we have in the State. In 1983, there was something less than a million barrels produced. In 1984, it was about 1.9 million, and in 1985 it was over 3 million barrels. So we are not up to Texas or California yet, but it is certainly an increase over what it was just a couple of years ago.

We have got some of the best oil in the Nation as far as its free flowing. It requires no pumping. It comes right to the surface. We have some wells with 2,000 barrels per day.

Senator HECHT. That is good news. I have been in Nevada nearly 40 years. I am happy to know that there is oil in "them thar hills."

Mr. REYBURN. Some of those hills are close to wilderness areas.

Senator HECHT. Mr. Roederer, I will not pursue it any further; but as you proceed, would you keep our office in Washington informed about it and your progress? And I will talk to Senator Laxalt and the other members of the Senate staff about the possibility of holding up anything until such time as we get your recommendations.

Mr. ROEDERER. Yes. We will be happy to keep the delegation currently informed of our progress.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel Grant Gerber, Jim Cashman, Mahlon Faust, Homer Hansen, Tim Hafen, Gary Kent, Richard Wyman.

Gentlemen, we have seats there and over there. The panel can come down to the front row.

Dr. John Leitch, Patricia Hedge, Jeff Van Ee, Geneva Douglas, Russell Butcher, Bill Vincent, and Dart Anthony.

Senator HECHT. General, since you are first looking at me, we will start with you, and would you please identify yourself for the record and start right in?

STATEMENT OF HOMER HANSEN, CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, LAS VEGAS, NV

General HANSEN. Thank you, Senator. Homer Hansen, board member of the Citizens for Responsible Government. I am here to discuss this issue. I promise you, Senator, I will not be repetitious and I certainly promise not to be as eloquent as the previous speakers.

The issue, we feel, is not just the size of the land. The issue, we really feel, is whether we should designate any area at this time or rush into it and certainly not increase the first small step that we can take in giving more land back to the Federal Government.

I understand that we have a State legislature that can meet and produce regulations quite fluently in Carson City and we feel our State can regulate much of this travel in wilderness areas, in areas we would like to preserve.

Roads, we feel, do not kill people; or rather, do not kill wildlife and forest land. They might kill people, but the people is what kills wildlife and forest lands and we think we can, in the State of Nevada, regulate that with our own legislation and our own restrictions to retain much of this for our children and our grandchildren.

I might close here with a little personal story that might sound like a bit of bull, but we might have heard that earlier. We have a small place in Utah, a ranch that borders on a wilderness area, and this wilderness area has been developed with roads in it and now they are adding some restriction on it.

Recently I was riding and found a large bull across the creek that was literally damming the creek up, and I got back and pulled the bull out of the seat bank of this small creek and buried it. And I think we did something for conservation of the wilderness area.

However, 2 months later—and the point of the story is the rangers came in with a Caterpillar and have taken the road and made embankments up so you can no longer travel with a vehicle of any

sort, and the road is impassable to anything but a horse. You could not pull out that 1,800 pound bull with any of my horses.

First, they do not have the tack and they are not trained for it. Neither could you pull any equipment to help with a fire.

So we have had up there lightening with horses, and you just cannot get them that close without a tractor. We all know that. The access to the wilderness areas can really protect our wilderness areas and the lack thereof can destroy them.

So I think that we can go too fast on this issue and reduce the access to these places we want to retain.

Now, the sensible people creating sensible restrictions can preserve this, as I mentioned before, and the Nevada wilderness areas can be drawn without designating our land to fall under Federal wilderness regulations.

CRG, the Citizens for Responsible Government, Senator, votes for the Vucanovich-Hecht-Laxalt position, and we would like to see you start with a smaller parcel. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, General.

STATEMENT OF GRANT GERBER, CHAIRMAN, NEVADANS FOR A PRACTICAL WILDERNESS POLICY, ELKO, NV

Mr. GERBER. Thank you, Senator. My name is Grant Gerber and I come from a ranching family in the Elko area. Our family settled near Fort Halleck in about 1852. I am presently the Chairman of Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy. It is a coalition of individuals and groups comprising hunters, campers, ranchers, skiiers, miners, veterans, businessmen, senior citizens and families.

We are a bipartisan group, with directors out of both parties, and our organization supports your bill as a practical compromise.

We are pleased that Congressman Reid has recently agreed that the Reid-Seiberling bill is a mistake. The formation of our coalition came as a direct result of Congressman Seiberling's whirlwind helicopter tour of the State last summer. At that time he arrogantly told us that he knew what was best for Nevada and he was going to go back to Washington and make sure that we got it.

The first organizations that joined our coalition were the Nevada Farm Bureau, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the Nevada Wool Growers, and the Elko Chamber of Commerce. Then came the Elko Ski Club and the Elko Board of Realtors.

At that time we started holding wilderness booths around the State. We held them in Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, Reno and Las Vegas. And here in Las Vegas at the Jay-Cee Fair, in excess of 85 percent of the people that came by our booth signed a letter to Congressman Reid requesting him to join with you and Senator Laxalt and Congresswoman Vucanovich in support of your bill.

After that, other organizations started joining us. We went to the mining industry and asked them to join. The mining associations then began joining our coalition. The Citizens for Responsible Government here in Las Vegas joined with us. The National Inn-holders Association, the Hunting and Sportsman's Club, and the latest organization that has joined us is the Nevada Board of Realtors.

Most of the chambers of commerce in the State have endorsed your bill. Included in them are the Greater Reno-Sparks, the Hen-

derson, and the Las Vegas Chamber. An interesting one that has recently come out on wilderness is the Shoshone National Council and they represent the Indians in over one-half of the State, and they recently voted unanimously on February 1, 1986, to oppose any Federal wilderness in Nevada.

Chief Millett stated at the Ely hearing, the wilderness is simply another means for the Federal Government to subjugate our people by additional unnecessary and unproductive restrictions.

The reason I got involved in this is that I could see my friends and family and neighbors being affected by the wilderness study areas and what would occur.

Senator HECHT. You are going to have to summarize.

Mr. GERBER. I want to say that I am convinced that what your bill is going to do is correct and therefore we support it.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Jim.

STATEMENT OF JIM CASHMAN, LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. CASHMAN. Thank you, Senator. I am Jim Cashman, the president-elect of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. I am here today for two reasons: No. 1, to say thank you very much for giving a choice and a chance for the people of Nevada to speak out on an issue such as this. We appreciate this opportunity. And, No. 2, to tell you that the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to support S. 722 after about a 4-month process that was initiated with our Congressional Action Committee looking into both sides.

We had presentations from both sides, both written and oral, several discussions as a board. We feel that for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Nevada, that S. 722 is the best wilderness proposal available.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

We will start right over here.

STATEMENT OF GARY H. KENT, NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. KENT. My name is Gary Kent. I reside here in Clark County. I am an MAI member of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and I am a professional real estate appraiser and consultant. I am here today to represent the views of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

My remarks, however, I think will be directed more toward the effects on values that could be affected through improper wilderness area legislation.

The lack of access of equipment to the open ranges can have a detrimental effect on the income stream of cattle ranches in a number of ways. The inability of the rancher to move his horses or his livestock across open ranges or across wilderness areas increases his operating costs.

The lack of access to control forest fires is again a direct cost increase if those fires occur because they will burn thousands of acres that may not be burned if road access is there to control.

As you well know, the ranching industry is an industry that is in substantial depression and state of depression and has been for a long period of time. There are a number of ranchers that today are near bankruptcy or on the verge of bankruptcy, and increased operating costs can only push these people over the edge and prolong a problem for those that do not go bankrupt.

The normal cattle ranch operation for the last 20 to 30 years will make a 2- to 3-percent return on their investment, which means then that $1,000 increase in operating costs will cause a loss in value to the operator of $33,000 to $50,000 in the value of his ranch.

The $1,000 in operating costs can occur very quickly. The association would hope that any legislation for wilderness would take into consideration compensation for taking a possessory interest by reason of the lack of reduced uses of the range, the loss of range water, and would also contain provisions for no reservations on water rights so that the rancher's water rights are preserved.

Normally the cattlemen do not need anymore increased costs without further returns.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kent follows:]

SIRS:

My name is Gary Kent and I reside at 5625 Birchwood Circle, Las Vegas, Nevada. I am a professional real estate appraiser and consultant, and an MAI member of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. I have been asked to testify on behalf of the Nevada Cattleman's Association at today's hearing. It is the desire of the Nevada Cattleman's Association that the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich Bill, or Bill HR1686, be supported and that every effort be made to defeat the Reid-Seiberling Wilderness Bill, HR3302. My remarks today will be aimed at the affect on value of the enlarged wilderness area under the Reid-Seiberling Wilderness Bill. As you well know, the ranching industry has been depressed for an extensive period of time with many ranchers near bankruptcy and increase costs of operation can only prolong these depressed economic conditions, quite possible pushing a number of operators into bankruptcy. Increased operating costs can result from the inability of ranchers to repair wells, fencing, springs and other water developments in an economical manner, utilizing the equipment necessary. One Californian, in an area previously designated as "wilderness", was denied motor access to repair and maintain his dams for irrigation water supply, when there had been road access to these facilities for approximately one hundred years. A helicopter cannot even touch the ground and repairs must be done with labor and supplies dropped from helicopter, or transported in by horse or foot. This adds to the operating costs of the ranch.

Further, access restriction greatly hinders fire protection should a forest fire break out. This can be seen in recent fires throughout the west where thousands upon thousands of acres have burned, partially because access could not be obtained to control the fire. This land is then lost for its beauty to the wilderness, as a hunting ground, as wildlife feed, and for grazing to the rancher for an extended period of time, again increasing operating costs. The inability of the rancher to truck horses and livestock through his range will further increase his operating costs. The development of new water sources on the range will be greatly hindered, with well development which helps both livestock, as well as wildlife, being almost non existent, and spring development being hindered.

Historically, cattle ranches have shown a 2% to 3% return on investment over the past 20 to 30 years. What this translates to is that, for each thousand dollar increase in operating costs, without an increase in revenue, there is a diminuation in value of 33 to 50 thousand dollars. The value changes not only effect the individual ranchers, but trickles through the economy ranging from bank loan security reduction possibly causing required loss reserves, to reductions in spending at the local retail stores. With the ranching industry in its present economic state, ranchers do not need this added expense and further diminuation in values.

Any wilderness legislation should include a provision for compensation for the taking of possessory interest resulting from reduction in water rights. reduction in grazing allocations, or reductions in range land areas, should any of these occur as a result of the wilderness area to be formed. While the range land itself is public land, the improvement to water, fencing, and, many times, feed condition is the expense of the rancher and he should be entitled to earn a return on these investments or compensation for these investments if wilderness legislation does not allow the use required to obtain a fair return. This is precisely why the Ely cattlemen are in opposition to the Great Basin Natural Park.

The Association would hope any wilderness legislation would not contain a reserved water right. This could not only effect the rancher, but other down-stream users such as municipalities.

In summary, I believe that the proposed Reid-Seiberling Wilderness Bill would remove too large of an area that is presently being utilized by Nevada ranchers who are already suffering financially. The Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich Bill is a more sensible approach at preserving some areas of Nevada that warrant preservation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you at this hearing today.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.
Mahlon.

STATEMENT OF MAHLON E. FAUST, LAKE MEAD BOATOWNERS ASSOCIATION, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. FAUST. Gentlemen, my name is Mahlon Faust. I am a long-time Clark County resident and I would like to echo Jim Cashman's remarks. We do appreciate your listening to our input.

I am here representing, on a semiofficial basis, the Lake Mead Boatowners Association, a large group, the largest group in the State of Nevada of boatowners, recreational boatowners. I am here at the instigation of Mr. John Harmon, Jr., the president of that group.

We will be meeting Sunday and we will be listening to the pros and cons. However, the overwhelming support of the people I have polled will be that we will be joining Mr. Gerber's group.

I would like to voice my concerns regarding any Nevada wilderness bill as it pertains to southern Nevada. As a long-time boatowner on Lake Mead, I and many others like me are concerned with any legislation that provides a mechanism to commence studies of potential wilderness acts without proper congressional oversight.

Too many times a bureaucracy decides to enlarge its sphere of influence, and with a cavalier attitude of congressional intent, runs amuck with loose interpretations of rules and regulations far beyond the original congressional philosophy.

As a member of the Lake Mead's Boatowners Association, we will be studying the Nevada wilderness bill with an official position. Until that time, the members I have polled are very cautious as to what ramification a wilderness bill would have on Lakes Mead, Mojave, and Lower Grand Canyon areas.

Now, I realize, of course, that Lower Grand Canyon is actually within the State of Arizona, but we are most concerned with all of the areas surrounding and including the Lake Mead recreational area.

I would like to conclude my remarks by again referring to another speaker, Mrs. Lucille Lusk. Please, we can handle our own destiny in Nevada.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Faust follows:]

Advertising Public Relations Marketing

Faust & Associates

February 11, 1986

The Honorable United States Senator Chic Hecht.

re: February 14, 1986 hearing Nevada Wilderness Bill, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dear Sir,

Very briefly I should like to voice my concerns regarding any Nevada Wilderness Bill as it pertains to Southern Nevada.

As a long-time boater on Lake Mead I and many others like me, are concerned with any legislation that provides a mechanism to commence studies of potential wilderness sites without proper congressional oversight. Too many times bureaucracy decides to enlarge its sphere of influence and with a cavalier attitude of congressional intent runs amok with loose interpretations of rules and regulations far beyond the original congressional philosophy.

As a member of the Lake Mead Boat Owners Association we will be studying the Nevada Wilderness Bill with an official position. Until that time members I have polled are very cautious as to what ramification a Wilderness Bill would have on the Lakes Mead, Mohave and Lower Grand Canyon areas.

Sincerely,

Mahlon E. Faust

MEF:mlm

1700 East Desert Inn Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 Telephone (702) 734-1143

Member - American Association Of Political Consultants

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Gary, I am glad you are here. First of all, I have a lot of respect for you as an appraiser, as you well know, over the years and there are a couple of questions that have been bothering me as I tour the State, and you are the first appraiser I can talk to about it.

Under some of the proposals for—and this happened when Congressman Seiberling was on the helicopter tour—some of these proposals give the ranchers lifetime tenure. Then, after that, they lose certain grazing rights or water rights, certain access rights.

What does this do to the value of their property?

Mr. KENT. Well, Senator, it obviously depreciates the value of their property. It should be recognized, obviously, that the rancher grazes upon our public lands. However, the improvements to those lands are paid for and are the rancher's improvements. And those can account to a very large investment.

It is this investment, as well as purchase investment, that I am talking about, that the rancher really only receives a 2- to 3-percent return on historically. So at a 2- to 3-percent return on his investment, you can see the dramatic loss of value that can be affected with a reduction in the usability of the range or taking of the range.

Senator HECHT. Well, let's just say, as a hypothetical, the rancher—we pass a bill. A rancher passes away in 6 months. His family sells the ranch.

What happens to those rights that were given to him for a lifetime? Are they all gone now in 6 months?

Mr. KENT. I really cannot answer that question. I guess I assume they would be, possibly

Senator HECHT. Well, we will have to get a legal interpretation of that, but I just wanted to ask you as an appraiser. That has never happened before to you?

Mr. KENT. No; that has never happened to me before. But the loss of those rights has more effect than just losing that land and those improvements. It upsets the entire balance of the cattle range, where a number of the Nevada ranges especially may have less than 10 percent of their carrying capacity on private lands, with the balance being under Taylor Grazing or Forest Service lands.

So the loss of those lands or the loss of those rights will obviously not only affect the loss of value from his range, but the home range as well.

Senator HECHT. Tony, when you get back to Washington, we have attorneys all around our committee. Can you get an interpretation for me of what that does to the property rights?

Mr. BEVINETTO. Yes, Senator. On the grazing issue, it is a grazing permit and it is not a property right until it is declared so by law, as in some national park proposals. But we will.

Senator HECHT. This is a legal question which we would have to resolve.

Jim, you say you represent the chamber of commerce here today. Why was this an issue for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce to take action on?

Mr. CASHMAN. Well, Senator, we generally looked at all major issues that affect the State of Nevada, not just Clark County. We

are concerned with the wilderness proposal which originally pertains to Clark County, but we are also concerned with the whole State because we feel Clark County is not isolated.

We feel we are a part of the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Grant, since you have taken an active part in this wilderness issue, how do you think the members of your group will feel about having a State hearing in Ely that we just talked about with Senator Bilbray?

How do you feel about that yourself?

Mr. GERBER. They would welcome that. They certainly appreciate these hearings that you have been holding around the State.

Could I just add one point to what Mr. Kent just said? One of the biggest dangers for the ranchers, in fact, all downstream users of water, cities and everyone, is the change that will occur as a result of the Colorado decision where the Sierra Club sued the Federal Government.

This will put a cloud on all water rights in the State of Nevada because of that decision.

Now, your bill in effect protects the downstream user. The Ried-Seiberling bill does not. I think that is one of the critical things and I think that that will cause a reduction in property values downstream.

Senator HECHT. One of the interesting aspects of this trip, in practically every spot we had Indians testifying, they are against any wilderness at all. And their comment to me was—you mentioned this in your testimony—the comment to me is, you took our land once. Why are you trying to take it again?

Mr. GERBER. I really enjoyed the comment by the representative of the Shoshone Tribe there in Elko, where he indicated that this land had been given to us by the Creator to use, and the Shoshone Nation wanted to use it with their white neighbors, and they did not want to see any more wilderness.

Senator HECHT. During all the testimony—and you know we have heard from several hundred people—he probably spoke as eloquently as anyone at all, and I am sure he is not a well-educated man. But he really got to the heart of the problem.

Did you hear his testimony?

Mr. GERBER. Yes; I did.

Senator HECHT. All of it?

Mr. GERBER. Yes; there were some old hard-bitten ranchers that walked out afterward and said they had goosepimples on their arms because of his testimony. He had lived on the land all his life and he knew what was best.

Senator HECHT. I have been notified as we started our first hearing, that our public stenographer, after about 1 hour and 20 minutes, has to take a 5-minute break. Give her hands a little breathing room. So, we are going to take no more than a 5-minute break and then we will come back with panel No. 4.

[Brief recess.]

Senator HECHT. Please take your seats and we will start.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Will panel No. 4 please come forward? Dr. John Leitch, Patricia Hedge, Jeff Van Ee, Geneva Douglas, Russell

Butcher, Bill Vincent, and Dart Anthony. Take your seats on either side as you have seen the other witnesses do.

If panel 5 would come down to the front row: Robert Warner, Richard Sumin, Donald Simpson, Charles Hollis, Alan Cox, Thomas Bagan, Charles Salsman.

Senator HECHT. We will switch sides now, just to keep it in perspective. And, Bill, I am going to let you speak, but before you do, I want to say you are probably the dean of the riders in southern Nevada. I have been a great admirer of yours for a long time. You have really done some tremendous work in southern Nevada.

Are you the dean of all the riders now?

Mr. VINCENT. I doubt it.

Senator HECHT. I think you are. I think you are. I think you are.

Do you want to start off, Bill?

STATEMENT OF BILL VINCENT, PUBLIC COORDINATOR, CITIZEN ALERT

Mr. VINCENT. Certainly. My name is Bill Vincent and I am southern coordinator for Citizen Alert, a nonprofit organization which collects and disseminates information of interest to Nevadans on the environment, energy, nuclear issues, public land management, and military activities.

Our national forest encompasses a high portion of our State's most valuable resources. These resources require special attention, careful management and conservation measures to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy what we enjoy today: a pure, dependable water supply, a diversity of plant and animal species, a clean unspoiled environment, and a fine safety valve for the pressures of urban living.

Citizen Alert is strongly opposed to S. 722, the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill which would provide wilderness protection to only four areas amounting to less than 137,000 acres.

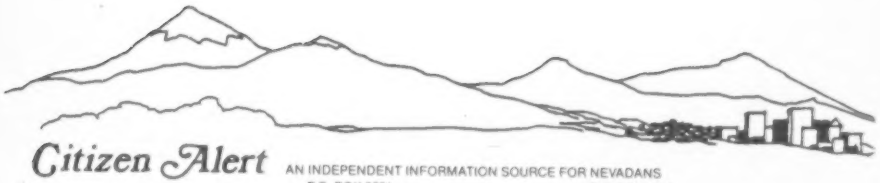
Citizen Alert supports the proposal of Friends of Nevada Wilderness for 1,500,000 acres of wilderness in 21 magnificent mountain areas. Here are our finest watersheds, our best hunting and fishing and our prime summer grazing for livestock.

Here, nature has banked our most precious capital, great assets which require long-range conservation and protection. Yet, these 1,500,000 acres are less than 2 percent of the total land area of the State. However, if that acreage cannot have the support of the State as it so richly deserves, we feel that H.R. 3302, Representative Harry Reid's bill which won approval of the House Public Lands Subcommittee, is a reasonable and fair compromise.

It identifies 10 areas of 722,000 acres as suitable for wilderness designation.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Vincent follows:]



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Feb. 14, 1986

Sen. Malcolm Wallop,
Chairman Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters.

My name is BillVincent and I am the southern coordinator for Citizen Alert, a non-profit organization which collects and disseminates information of interest to Nevadans on the environment, energy, nuclear issues, public land management and military activities.

Our National Forests encompass a high portion of our state's most valuable resources. These resources require special attention, careful management and conservation measures to insure future generations will be able to enjoy what we enjoy today - a pure dependable water supply, a diversity of plant and animal species, a clean unspoiled environment, and a fine safety valve to the pressures of urban living.

Citizen Alert is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 722 - the Hecht, Laxalt, Vucanovich bill - which would provide wilderness protection to only four areas amounting to less than 137,000 acres. This totally inadequate bill gets its main support from the Nevada Mining Association.

Most of the Mining Association's funds to fight Wilderness comes from out-of-state oil and chemical corporations -Exxon, Tennecp, Phillips Petroleum, Dupont and others - who have no interests or roots in Nevada.

This $150,000 slush fund is paying for a lobbyist and newsletter which are flooding the state with scare stories to undermine support for Wilderness. Some of these stories are outrageous misstatements of the facts, while others are carefully honed distortions of the truth. We are pleased to note that this anti-wilderness campaign by one special interest group is apparently failing. A very recent poll shows Nevadans favor Wilderness by a 60-40 majority.

Citizen Alert supports the proposal of Friends of Nevada Wilderness for 1,500,000 acres of Wilderness in 21 magnificient mountain areas. Here are our finest watersheds, our best hunting

and fishing and our prime summer grazing for livestock. Here nature has banked our most precious capital, fragile assets that require long-range thoughtful conservation and protection. And yet these 1,500,000 are less than 2 percent of the total land area of the state.

However, if that acreage cannot get support for the status it so richly deserves, we feel that HR 3502, Rep. Harry Reid's bill which won approval of the House Public Lands Subcommittee, is a responsible fair compromise. It identifies 10 areas of 722,000 acres as suitable for Wilderness designation.

Bill Vincent

Bill Vincent
105 Palm Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Senator HECHT. Bill, thank you.
Dart.

STATEMENT OF DART ANTHONY, PRESIDENT, NEVADA FEDERATION OF ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. ANTHONY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dart Anthony and I am president of the Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organizations.

By way of introduction, NFAPO is a Nevada-chartered, nonprofit charitable organization, founded in 1985. NFAPO currently represents 10 of the largest and most prestigious animal welfare protection and rights organizations chartered in the State of Nevada.

The combined membership of the organizations involved with NFAPO is more than 100,000 Nevadans statewide. NFAPO also has affiliate members in other States.

NFAPO's joint membership wholeheartedly supports H.R. 3302 for many reasons. First, wilderness is good for Nevada's wildlife because it means less disturbance of animals by motorized vehicles and mining activities.

Second, wilderness is good for people, both for those who enjoy wilderness recreation to get away from urban pressures and for those who never will visit a wilderness but who want to know a wilderness exists now and for future generations.

Our vast membership supports all 14 areas currently under consideration by Congress, especially Mt. Charleston, which provides a welcome oasis for wildlife and people so close to Metropolitan Las Vegas. NFAPO also supports the proposed Great Basin National Park. It is about time that Nevada had a national park instead of nuclear waste from New Jersey and other States. We feel strongly that there should be at least one place in the State where wildlife is totally protected from all hunting and trapping.

In conclusion, we highly commend Congressman Harry Reid for his leadership from Nevada on this very important issue. If this country had followed the philosophy of Senate bill 722, which was supported by Nevada's U.S. Representatives, Barbara Vucanovich and Senators Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht, with its inadequate recommendations for four small wilderness areas and no park, we would never have had Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, and the economy of Las Vegas would not now be greatly benefited for their Grand Canyon National Park, Death Valley National Monument, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Our members urge you, Senator Hecht, to think very carefully before you go against what you know to be the majority opinion of your constituency on the Nevada wilderness legislation. We expect you to provide the leadership in the Senate to give national recognition to Nevada's wilderness treasures and bring the State its first national park.

I would like to thank you and the members of the committee for this opportunity to address and present our views for the Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organizations. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Dart.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA HEDGE, WILDERNESS SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Ms. HEDGE. Good morning, Senator Hecht.

My name is Patty Hedge. I represent the Wilderness Society. I am also proud to say that I am the granddaughter of a successful gold miner who early in the century found his success in the gold fields of Nevada. I might say that I had my training as an environmentalist as a result of his successes in mining.

Our organization, the Wilderness Society, has celebrated its 51st year as an organization, and we deal exclusively with Federal land issues. We were very involved with the passage of the Wilderness Act back in 1964, and we have continued to work for improved Federal land management, and have been working on RARE II bills, Forest Service wilderness bills throughout the Nation.

During this past week, we have had the opportunity of hearing a great number of people in the State testify before the subcommittee of this committee to give them an opportunity to let their views be known about the wilderness issue. It is important, I think, some time during this process for everyone to stop and reflect on the fact that we are talking about a Federal land issue.

We are talking about lands that are already under Federal ownership. We are only talking about how a small percentage of those existing Federal lands should be managed. We are not talking about taking away anybody's rights on those lands. We are not talking about purchasing any private lands. We are only talking about Forest Service lands, and the debate is focused on what small percentage of those Forest Service lands should be put into America's wilderness system.

It is also, I believe, significant to focus on the fact that America is the only country in the world that has a wilderness system. We so value our natural heritage and feel such a keen responsibility to pass some remnant of that heritage on to future generations that we have this wilderness system. The debate so far has too frequently sounded as though people should have these Federal lands for backpacking and mining.

The fact is, we owe it to future generations to protect biologic communities to have genetic diversity to assure that the history that we received in this land and the impact that we have made in the last 250 years of our presence here does not so alter all Federal lands that we don't pass on to future generations some small remnant of the physical heritage of this country that we inherited, and I would ask the members to really consider that question and realize our obligation to future generations to give them just a piece of the great magnitude of what we inherited in this country when we came here.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Next.

STATEMENT OF J. JEFFREY VAN EE, NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mr. VAN EE. Mr. Chairman, my name is Jeff Van Ee, and I am here today representing the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association. Senate bill 722 would add 137,000 acres or approximately two-tenths of our State to the 0.09 percent of our public lands already protected as wilderness by Congress.

H.R. 3302 as amended would add 14 areas of national forest lands in Nevada totaling 930,000 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This represents 1.4 percent of the State designated wilderness in other Western States. It ranges from a low of 1.5 percent in Utah, a State renowned for its national parks, to 7.3 percent in Idaho, a State with nationally acclaimed hunting and recreational opportunities.

The miniscule amount of wilderness in this State sends the message to many that Nevada is little more than a desert wasteland. Nevada is one of the fastest growing States in the Nation. Soon we will have our 1 millionth visitor. Visitors to our State are welcomed at the border with a sign, "Nevada Recreation Unlimited."

Visitors are told Nevada has got, come and get it. We are told there are still places to discover that what few before you have seen, you can package wilderness areas where the only thing on the clear Nevada air is the smoke from your campfire. Nevada is trying to improve its image. Nevada is trying to diversify its economy. We are seeking to attract more visitors to our State with our hotels and our cities, and we are opening in our State to new residents, new business, new industries by saying Nevada has got it, come and get it.

Changing the image of our State as being a vast desert wasteland will not be easy. Designating and protecting more wilderness helps. The U.S. General Accounting Office report to the Congress on mining law reform and balance resource management reported in 1979 on the 1872 mining law. The law allows development of public resources with no assurance of fair market value return to the public. The law allows extraction of minerals on public lands without regard for the impact on the environment. The law allows mining on valid claims to preempt other uses of the land at the discretion of the mining claimant.

Still, we are being told by some that wilderness is a lockout. The wilderness areas proposed in H.R. 3302 include only 438 of the approximately 340,000 mining claims on Federal lands in Nevada. Four of the wilderness areas contain no mining claims at all. That amount of mining claims represents 6.8 million acres of land in the State. And I think we have more than enough land in the State that we can set aside some as wilderness.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Van Ee follows:]

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS TASK FORCE
NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1245
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Founded 1958

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STATEMENT OF J. JEFFREY VAN EE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
BEFORE THE SENATE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE ON S.B. 722
FEBRUARY 14, 1986

The Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association (NORA) has been an advocate for our public lands in Nevada for 27 years. Our emphasis has been on those lands that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but today the focus of a great debate is on lands that are managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The amount of wilderness that we designate for our Forest Service lands today will be the litmus test for how Nevadans will preserve our environment and natural heritage in the future.

Senate Bill 722 would add 137,000 acres, or approximately .2% of our state, to the .09% of our public lands already protected as wilderness by Congress. H.R. 3302, as amended, would add 14 areas of national forest lands in Nevada, totaling approximately 939,000 acres of land, to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This represents 1.4% of the state. Designated wilderness in other western states ranges from a low of 1.5% in Utah (a state renowned for its national parks) to 7.3% in Idaho (a state with nationally acclaimed hunting and recreational opportunities.) The minuscule amount of wilderness in this state sends the message to many that Nevada is little more than a desert wasteland - a perfect place to locate unpopular MX missiles, nuclear waste, supersonic flight areas and nuclear weapons testing facilities. Those of us who call Nevada home know that this state has a lot of recreational and scenic opportunities for our families, friends, and visitors.

Nevada is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. Soon, we will have our one millionth resident. Visitors to our state are welcomed at the border with the sign: "Nevada: Recreation Unlimited". Visitor's are told: "Nevada's Got It . . . Come and Get It." We are told: "There are still places to discover that few before you have seen. You can pack into wilderness areas where the only thing in the clear Nevada is the smoke from your campfire." Nevada is trying to improve it's image. Nevada is trying to diversity its economy. We are seeking to attract more visitors to our state with our hotels in our cities, and we are opening our state to new residents, new business and new industries by saying: Nevada's Got It . . . Come and Get It." Changing the image of our state as being a vast desert wasteland will not be easy. Establishing a national park in Nevada would help. Designating and protecting more wilderness helps, too. Even with the passage of H.R. 3302 Nevada will still be at the bottom of the western states when it comes to the land that we have set aside as wilderness.

Rapid changes are taking place in our state. Increased attention is being devoted to our public lands - a resource that once seemed limitless. Conflicts over the future of our lands and our state are occurring with

** IN MEMORIAM **

(NORA Founders)

Sumner L. Evans
Sparks, Nevada

George Lund
Unionville, Nevada

Ernest Johnson
Empire, Nevada

James G. Huber, Sr.
Fiesta, Nevada

George Kell
Sparks, Nevada

Charles Kago
Reno, Nevada

Howard Dietlart
Gerlach, Nevada

(NPLTF Founders)

Paul M. Tilden
Bethesda, Maryland

Carmelita Lowry
St. Louis, Missouri

George Hudson
Pullman, Washington

Lowell E. Foreman
Ft. Tolbacco, Maryland

increasing frequency. Economics and economic diversification are common terms in the debate over the future course of our state.

Mining of minerals has played an important part of our economy with the 1872 Mining law allowing anyone in 1986 to stake a claim on a piece of public land. A mere $100 worth of improvements to a claim is all that is required each year to continue a claim on public land.

The U.S. General Accounting Office Report to the Congress on Mining Law Reform and Balanced Resource Management reported in 1979 on the 1872 Mining Law:

> The [1872 Mining] law allows development of public resources with no assurance of a fair market value return to the public.
>
> The [1872 Mining] law allows extraction of minerals on public lands without regard for the impact on the environment.
>
> The [1872 Mining] law allows mining on valid claims to preempt other uses of the land at the discretion of the mining claimant, impairing balanced use of public-land mineral resources.

Despite the opportunities provided to the mining industry by the 1872 Mining Law, some mining representatives try to portray environmentalists as the bad guys and wilderness as a lock out of the public. Statistics on the public lands available to mining would suggest that there is more than enough public land to accommodate the need for minerals and the need to preserve some of our pristine lands for present and future generations. "The wilderness areas proposed in [H.R. 3302] include only 438 of the approximately 340,000 mining claims on federal lands in Nevada (a little more than 1/10 of one percent). Four of the wilderness areas . . . contain no mining claims at all." [House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Report on H.R. 3302, December 10, 1985]. A mining claim represents 20 acres, and 340,000 mining claims represents a total of 6.8 million acres of land that have been claimed. Even with large amounts of land already claimed and a majority of public lands in Nevada being open to mineral development, environmentalists have sought to minimize the conflicts with mining by adjusting the boundaries of the proposed wilderness areas to exclude proven claims. Still some continue to misrepresent wilderness as a lock out.

Failure to act decisively today will mean fewer opportunities in the future to protect those lands where wildlife can flourish, and where we can temporarily leave our cars, our cities, and our worries behind. The areas have no roads today, and they shall have no roads tomorrow. Roads lead us to many places, but wilderness can lead us to our past. Wilderness preserves, it does not destroy the land. Wilderness is for all citizens, not just a few who seek riches. Wilderness is for those people who once could visit the areas, but who are now content to see it preserved for their children. Wilderness is good for the image of our state.

NORA supports the members of Friends of Nevada Wilderness in saying that much more wilderness is needed than the 139,000 acres and four areas proposed in S.B. 722. H.R. 3302, as amended, is not excessive; nor is it just for the hikers. Wilderness is for all Nevadans even though some Nevadans may want to claim our public lands as their own.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Excuse me. Before you talk, I was supposed to make an announcement. I was asked—a lot of people have brought testimony, and they have to get back to work. Where do they put their testimony? Because they cannot testify today. Tony, where would they put it. Turn it in to Ann, right down here. Anyone in the audience who has any testimony, if they want to be a part of the official record, turn it in right down here, and you have until February 28 to produce any testimony you might want.

I am sorry. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL D. BUTCHER, SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. BUTCHER. Mr. Chairman, my name is Russ Butcher. I am southwest representative for the National Parks and Conservation Association, a 67-year-old private, nonprofit membership organization.

Regarding S. 722's wilderness proposals, we agree that its four proposed areas are highly qualified for wilderness designation. We urge, however, that there are a number of other outstanding and richly deserving areas in the national parks of Nevada, notably the magnificent Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, Mount Jefferson, and the Grand Range, all recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service.

There is another area that would also superbly qualify, the South Snake Range, crowned by 13,000-foot Wheeler Peak. In our view, though, the South Snakes deserve an even greater national recognition as a national park. Based on many years of my own personal experiences up there, the Wheeler Peak area is a real gem among mountains, a truly special place.

Just one of the highlights of the proposed Great Basin National Park are two outstanding groves of the incredible bristle cone pines, the oldest living tree species in the world.

On the slopes of Wheeler Peak and Mount Washington, these grand trees grow at or near timberline among the most spectacularly scenic high mountain setting of anywhere in this species limited range. Some of these picturesque weather sculpted ancient trees date back nearly 5,000 years to the time when the Egyptians were building their great pyramids, a truly awesome thought.

The National Park System already appropriated, protects, and celebrates the greatest living things on Earth, the coast Redwoods in California, the largest living things, the giant Sequoias. We urge that the oldest living tree species deserves the same high honor and well-deserved protection within the National Park System.

Let me say we are well aware of some of the resource use conflicts, such as livestock grazing in the Wheeler Peak area. We feel confident, however, that these issues can be appropriately resolved. Water rights and valid mineral claims would not be impaired by establishment of a national park or by wilderness areas.

On the question of water rights which has been mentioned earlier this morning, the priority system of water rights that governs in this State says that the Federal Government stands in line just like any other water rights users. Whatever water rights the national

forest may now have, the Park Service would, and the legal term is "tack back" to the time that the Federal Government under the Forest Service acquired those rights. There would be in no way any juggling around or changes or usurption of water rights.

Senator HECHT. You will have to summarize. Just summarize.

Mr. BUTCHER. Thank you, sir. Just in conclusion I would like to say that the Silver State certainly deserves to have a national park, and we feel that the Wheeler Peak area is imminently qualified. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Butcher follows:]

National Parks & Conservation Association

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NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED
WILDERNESS AREAS AND
A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Field Hearing on S. 722
U.S. Senate Subcommittee
on Public lands, Reserved
Water & Resource Conservation
Las Vegas, Nevada
February 14, 1986

My name is Russell D. Butcher. I am the Southwest-&-Nevada/California Representative of National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA). We are a 67-year-old private nonprofit membership organization established to promote the protection, enhancement, and public understanding of the National Park System and related public lands. Our bi-monthly magazine, NATIONAL PARKS, is published in Washington, D.C., and reaches some 40,000 members nationwide.

We are grateful for this Congressional hearing and the four previous hearings in other Nevada cities this week. It is an important and welcome opportunity for individuals, organizations, and agencies to express their views and offer suggestions.

(more)

2-NPCA views, Feb. 14, 1986, wilderness hearing

Concerning the four wilderness proposals described in S. 722, we agree that Mt. Moriah and the Jarbidge Wilderness Additions in Humboldt National Forest, Mt. Charleston (Spring Mountains) in Toiyabe National Forest, and Boundary Peak in Inyo National Forest are highly deserving of addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. From our personal experience, Mt. Moriah is an especially outstanding area from the wilderness protection viewpoint.

We believe, however, that these four areas comprise an inadequate selection of national forest lands in Nevada that truly merit wilderness classification. Most noteworthy and deserving of other areas, in our view, are the magnificent Ruby Mountains and Grant Range both recommended for wilderness by the Humboldt National Forest; the spectacular Arc Dome and Alta Toquima (Mt. Jefferson) both recommended for wilderness by the Toiyabe National Forest; scenic Currant Mountain (Duckwater) and Quinn Canyon Range in Humboldt National Forest; and Table Mountain and Mt. Rose in Toiyabe National Forest. We urge that S. 722 be amended to include these superb areas that meet the high standards of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

There is one additional Humboldt National Forest area that would also superbly qualify for wilderness protection--the South Snake Range (Wheeler Peak) which has also been recommended by the Forest Service. However, the South Snake Range, in our view, deserves even greater national recognition as a national park. We have long urged that the South Snakes, crowned with magnificent 13,063-foot-high Wheeler Peak, deserves special protection. Based upon many years of personal experience, this area is one of the very most outstanding alpine mountain ranges anywhere in North America--a real gem among mountains, a truly special place. They rise boldly, like a great island in time, through an impressive array of life zones, from the surrounding vast valleys of the Great Basin Desert.

(more)

3-NPCA views, Feb. 14, 1986, wilderness hearing

Nationwide interest in special protection for the South Snakes began way back in 1924 when a Tonopah mining engineer, C.C. Boak, suggested the idea of a "Lehman Caves-Wheeler Peak National Park." A bill was introduced in Congress by Nevada's own Senator Key Pittman, but it failed to weather opposition from Nevada mining and livestock grazing interests.

Reneved interest in protection for the Wheeler Peak area occurred from 1955-65, originating this time with internationally known conservation writer Weldon F. Heald. In 1957, a lead article in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, entitled "National Park Proposed for Nevada," said:

> "Lehman Caves would form the nucleus and headquarters for the new park or enlarged monument. The mountainous area is too rugged and restricted for extensive road or resort development and would best be preserved in its natural state as a wilderness....We proponents of 'Great Basin National Park' believe that Nevada's Snake Range...would make a unique and significant addition to our national parks."
> (Heald in July-Sept. 1957 NPM)

In that same year, our Association's Board of Trustees voted to support the expansion of Lehman Caves National Monument to encompass much of the spectacular high country of the South Snakes.

The then editor of the Ely Daily Times, Darwin Lambert, strongly endorsed Weldon Heald's idea, and he helped found a Great Basin National Park Association. Other groups and agencies joined in expressing support for the national park, including the White Pine Chamber of Commerce and Mines (as it was then called), the White Pine County Commissioners, the Nevada Municipal Association, and the Nevada Department of Economic Development.

Nevada's distinguished Senators, Alan Bible and Howard Cannon, introduced legislation that was passed by the Senate in 1962. Mining and grazing interests subsequently succeeded in blocking passage of the measure in the House, however.

(more)

4-NPCA views, Feb. 14, 1986, wilderness hearing

Meanwhile, in 1959 the Forest Service administratively designated 28,000 acres as the "Wheeler Peak Scenic Area," in recognition of "the exceptional scenic, botanical, and geological attractions of the range." The agency built a paved road up to the 10,000-foot elevation below Wheeler Peak, constructed several excellent campgrounds, and improved and expanded the trail system.

Beginning two or three years ago, the idea of a national park was once again revived, this time by University of Utah professor Robert S. Waite. Dr. Waite had devoted a string of years to exploring the South Snakes--studying the geology, history, flora, and fauna, and developing a thorough first-hand knowledge of the area's tremendous range of scientific values and scenic assets.

In the autumn of 1983, our Association hosted a meeting of some thirty interested persons from the local area, from around the state, and from across the nation. We invited proponents of several different points of view equal time to ~~offer~~ describe their proposals--for a Great Basin National Park, a Bristlecone Pine National Monument, a Forest Service wilderness area, and for maintaining the present Humboldt National Forest management.

Recently, the Humboldt National Forest gave further recognition to the outstanding natural values of the Wheeler Peak area by recommending a significant part of the South Snake Range as suitable for wilderness.

In our view, the South Snake Range offers a worthy addition to the National Park System. By proposing an area of some 174,000 acres encompassing the whole of the South Snake Range and defined by the present boundary of the Humboldt National Forest's South Snakes unit, there would appropriately be established a magnificent comprehensive national park totally in keeping with the historic guidelines and high standards for our great national parks. What are a few of the outstanding natural assets which, taken together, present such an extraordinary opportunity for Nevada's first national park?

(more)

• rich coniferous forests ranging from juniper and pinyon up to Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, white fir, and limber pine, mixed here and there with delightful groves of quaking aspen that turn flaming shades of red and gold in September and October;

• dashing streams and sparkling alpine lakes;

• numerous species of wildlife such as mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, blue grouse, Clark's nutcrackers, Steller's jays, crossbills, and the vibrantly colored mountain bluebirds;

• a patch of glacial ice and an associated "rock glacier";

• Lexington Arch, one of the world's largest limestone arches, measuring some 120 feet across and six stories high;

• numerous caves, most notably Lehman Caves that boasts exquisite, intricate formations of stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, fluted columns, and unusual shields--some of which are perfectly mirrored in the surfaces of miniature cave pools;

• a grand array of bold, upthrusting peaks of the range--some such as Wheeler composed of beautiful quartzite, while others such as Mt. Washington are of massive limestone; and

• two outstanding groves of the incredible Bristlecone Pine (Pinus longaeva)--the oldest living tree species in the world. Some of these marvelously picturesque, weather-sculpted ancients, growing and even thriving in the most formidable of conditions at or near timberline, date back to nearly (maybe over) 5,000 years ago. The oldest trees we see today high on the slopes of Wheeler and Washington began growing when the Egyptians were building their great pyramids. A truly awesome thought!

The National Park System already appropriately boasts magnificent groves of the tallest living things on earth, the Coast Redwoods; and the largest living things, the Giant Sequoias. Other National Park System units protect and celebrate such other unique

(more)

floral species as the Saguaro and Organ Pipe cacti and the tree-sized yucca known as the Joshua Tree. We urge that the time is now due for according the oldest living tree species the same high honor and well deserved protection within the National Park System. The South Snake Range offers the finest opportunity to do so--its Bristlecones growing amid the most spectacular setting anywhere in its range.

National Parks and Conservation Association, therefore, urges establishment of a Great Basin National Park in the South Snake Range. After more than 60 years of debating this issue, now is the time to go for it. Not only will all Americans who deeply cherish our national parks be justly proud of the South Snake Range, the ancient Bristlecone Pines, and all the other natural assets, but Nevadans, too, will take pride in the fact that finally, after all these years, the Silver State boasts a truly great national park within its own borders.

We thank you.

* * *

Senator HECHT. You moved on me.

Ms. DOUGLAS. I was afraid I would not reach the microphone Senator.

Senator HECHT. Well, we could give you another one, and you could use mine.

STATEMENT OF GENEVA DOUGLAS, CHAIR, FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

Ms. DOUGLAS. Good morning to you, Senator Hecht, Mr. Abbott, and other members of the staff.

I am Geneva Douglas, a resident of Las Vegas who has lived and worked here for 26 years. I speak as chair of a statewide coalition of 25 organizations and many businesses and individuals called Friends of Nevada Wilderness. We appreciate the personal demands five hearings in 5 days have made on you, Mr. Hecht, and we thank you for coming here.

For close to 10,000 Nevadans represented by our grassroots coalition I speak against S. 722. It is totally inadequate to protect our glorious scenic lands on our mountaintops from the ravages of impending development. We urge the Congress to designate as wilderness the 21 most scenic of the 113 roadless areas in the national forest, thus releasing even more land for other multiple uses.

We believe we can have ranching, mining, skiing, protection of State water rights, and also wilderness if Congress does its job as it should. I submit this petition [1] with some 2,576 signatures of our citizens who support our position. We are ordinary Nevadans, young and old, working people and retired folks, able and disabled, who want to preserve our wilderness heritage.

Fifty-three million acres of Nevada's public lands are open to mineral entry, and the military test range complex in southern Nevada alone encompasses 3.6 million acres. Wilderness protection for 21 wild scenic areas and on our most spectacular mountaintops will provide some balance in the way our State's public land is used, and will assure us that some of it will remain clean, peaceful, and pristine for all to enjoy.

I refer you to my written testimony for details.

Senator HECHT. It will be submitted as a part of the record. You can have extra time. I did not mean to infringe on you.

Ms. DOUGLAS. OK. Thank you. We do urge you, Mr. Hecht and the rest of the Congress, to do the job of preservation as we know thousands of Nevadans believe it should be done. Thank you.

[Applause.]

[The prepared statement of Ms. Douglas follows:]

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[1] Retained in subcommittee files.

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132 (702) 384-1890
P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 (702) 322-2867

STATEMENT OF GENEVA S. DOUGLAS, REPRESENTING
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATERS
ON S. 722
Las Vegas, Nevada -- February 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Geneva Douglas, a resident of Las Vegas where I have lived and worked for 26 years. I appear before you as Chair of a statewide coalition called Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and speak on its behalf. This is a coalition of 25 organizations, as well as numerous businesses and individuals, that support the designation of 21 wild, scenic areas of our State's National Forest Lands as wilderness.

We thank Senator Hecht for bringing this hearing to Nevada, and only regret that more subcommittee members and more Southern Nevada citizens were not free to attend this Friday morning field hearing due to job commitments.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness originated when many Nevadans became alarmed at statements being made by public officials and mining and ranching interests that Nevadans didn't want wilderness. We were appalled that our Senators felt there were only four small areas in our National Forests worthy of being placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We came together as a group of organizations and individuals who care about the glorious scenic lands of our high mountain forests, who are willing to donate our funds, materials, time, and labor to provide public education and information on the concept of wilderness and its value to individuals and society, and who want our concern for Nevada's scenic lands to be heard by the legislators who will decide their fate.

63-105 O - 86 - 24

At several meetings held in August in both northern and southern Nevada, we agonized over the position we should adopt and finally came to a consensus on which 18 member organizations voted unanimously to support the designation as wilderness of 21 unique roadless areas encompassing a little over 1.5 million acres of Nevada's National Forest lands, or about 2% of Nevada's total land area, thus releasing over 2 million additional acres now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service for other multiple uses and possible development.

Since we made our position public, we have gained many new members, and as I write this we list 25 organizations that comprise close to 10 thousand Nevadans who enthusiastically support our position. What makes it most exciting is that this is not a coalition of environmental groups and environmentalists alone. Some of us are speaking out on a broad issue like this for the first time in our lives.

Among the organizational members are such diverse groups as the:

- **Kiwanis Club of Golden K**, a group of retired and semi-retired professional men in Las Vegas whose secretary told us has "18 votes united as a group in support of as much wilderness as we can get!"
- **Evergreen Alliance**, a group of rural Nevadans concerned about the proposed BLM/Forest Service land swap and other environmental issues that effect southern Nevada and particularly the Mt. Charleston area where most of them live;
- **Soroptimist International of Boulder City, Soroptimist International of Carson City, Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, Soroptimist International of Henderson,** and **Soroptimist International of Las Vegas Valley** -- all five clubs, with a collective membership of about 200, are part of the world's largest classified service organization for professional and executive business women;
- **League of Women Voters of Nevada**, who you know as a group that promotes informed citizen participation in government, and which has 331 members within the State of Nevada;
- **Elko County Conservation Association**, a group of Elko County citizens concerned with conservation issues in their area;
- **Joint Study Committee on Environment** -- in itself a coalition sponsored by the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce that provides information to a mailing list of about 150 concerned southern Nevadans on environmentally aesthetic solutions to flood control problems in their valley;
- **Citizen Alert**, an organization concerned with environmental and conservation issues that sends its newsletter to over 2000 members and friends, over half of which are citizens of Nevada;

- **Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, Inc.**, a statewide affiliate of the National Public Lands Task Force, founded in 1958 and dedicated to preservation and management of Bureau of Land Management public lands;

- **Southern Nevada Zoological Park**, which has the goal of establishing and maintaining a zoo in the Las Vegas area;

- **Franciscan Center**, a religious organization dedicated to peace, justice and social services in the southern Nevada area;

- **Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association**, a rural group in Storey County consisting of property owners and developers of 37,000 acres of the Virginia Range who are concerned for protection of wildlife and the environment;

- **Northern Nevada Native Plant Society**, about 450 people interested in Nevada's native plants -- in our wildflowers, in growing native plants, or in conserving threatened and endangered species.

- **Wild Horse Organized Assistance**, a northern Nevada group founded in 1971 by Velma Johnson, also known as Wild Horse Annie, which is concerned with land use plans, and the management and adoption of wild horses. They believe wild horses enhance wilderness, and that the agencies managing wilderness will develop new techniques to allow protection of these animals without degrading wilderness values;

- **American Wilderness Alliance**, a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to the conservation of wilderness, wildlife habitat, and wild river resources;

- **Red Rock Audubon Society** and **Lahontan Audubon Society**, the southern and Northern Nevada branches, respectively, of the national society of birdwatchers organized for educational, scientific, literary, and historical purposes, with a membership of about 1,000 Nevada residents concerned about the preservation of wildlife habitat that wilderness will provide;

- **Toyaibe Chapter**, the **Great Basin Group**, and the **Las Vegas Group** of the **Sierra Club**, a national organization of 350,000 members who explore, enjoy, and work to preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness, with a statewide membership of more than 1600 members;

- **Wilderness Society**, a non-profit membership organization devoted to preserving wilderness and wildlife, protecting America's forests, parks, rivers and shorelands, and fostering an American land ethic, with about 1500 members throughout the State of Nevada.

- **Defenders of Wildlife**, a non-profit, national, educational organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of wildlife, with about 400 members in Nevada.

Among our individual members we have students and senior citizens; lawyers; high school and university teachers; two former State senators; scientists and engineers; a plastic surgeon and a dentist; a nun; professionals with city, State, and Federal government; museum staff and a zoo director; a disabled carpenter; a writer and a variety of business people including publishing, consulting, accounting, travel

and tours, real estate, secretarial service, photography, food store and restaurant owner. Many of us do not backpack on weekends, and we are more apt to walk the dog than hike the high country, but we enthusiastically support the preservation of 21 of the 113 roadless scenic areas eligible for wilderness designation in the precious national forests of our desert State.

In an appendix, I have briefly described the wilderness values of the areas that we believe are worthy of your serious consideration for wilderness designation and our position on the Senate and House bills with respect to these areas and acreages. We believe there are few, if any, significant resource conflicts in these areas. Also attached is a list comparing the wilderness recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service and those of the House and Senate bills with the recommendations of our coalition, as well as a set of bar graphs illustrating the land area of western States and comparisons of designated and proposed wilderness in Nevada with that in other States.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness urges the Congress to designate as wilderness these 21 wild, scenic areas that rise high above Nevada's deserts and thus release an additional 2.0 million acres within the 113 roadless areas now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service. We believe that S. 722 is totally inadequate. We consider H.R. 3302 to be a reasonable compromise, although it lacks the Sweetwaters, Pearl Peak, the Excelsiors, Toyaibe Crest, Elk Mountain and the Grant Range, comprising a total of 145,060 acres, and it creates the Great Basin National Park, instead of wilderness in the South Snake range. We believe Nevadans can take great pride in having a National Park, particularly one with such outstanding features as those afforded by Wheeler Peak and the surrounding National Forest roadless area, and we will support a Park although we prefer wilderness designation in that area.

We believe that our position is reasonable in light of several considerations. Nevada has a great deal of public land that belongs to the American people, as you all know. Yet the public is denied access to a large portion of that land which has been reserved primarily for military bases, bombing and gunnery ranges, and the nuclear testing activities conducted by the Department of Energy. Even more land for these

uses has been withdrawn in recent years. The test range complex in southern Nevada alone has withdrawn 3.6 million acres. The designation of 1.5 million acres of wilderness will provide some balance in the way our State's public land is used and will assure us that some of our land will remain clean, peaceful, and pristine the way it was before man and modern technology arrived.

Nevada is in the southwest part of the Sunbelt where population growth is rapid and projected to increase at an accelerated pace in years to come. Las Vegas Valley, which was once "the meadows", now holds about half a million people and already population pressure has moved people into the farthest reaches of the Valley, to the lower levels of the Spring Mountain Range, and into the Pahrump and Amargosa valleys to the west and north. The Carson Valley is becoming part of the metropolitan area of Reno and Carson City, and retirement communities are springing up in the pinyon forests west of Wellington.

Our collective forefathers came out of wilderness as our nation was settled and the western expansion began. Our roots are there. It is a thrill to experience this scenic wild country in person or through pictures and to imagine how early settlers survived and prospered as they developed the society and way of life we are proud to call American today.

People need space, and Nevada has abundant space in the desert and on the hills and lower slopes of our mountain ranges. The mining industry already has 53 million acres open to mineral entry. We don't want all our available space to suffer the ravages of development, at least until such development is essential to our survival. By designating these 21 areas as wilderness, even if one of our areas in is the midst of a National Park, we are putting some of our valuable resources into a safe deposit box. We are preserving some forest, some watershed, some potential mineral sources, some glorious vistas, some pure air, some wildlife habitat, a diversity of plant and animal species and the gene pool they provide that could be survival insurance for future generations.

We are not locking them away where they will be forgotten. The safe deposit box can be opened, and the wilderness can be used in many ways while it is in safekeeping. Those who have grazing permits will still have and use their permits. Miners with valid claims can develop their claims and prospectors can prospect in a manner consistent with wilderness values. The wilderness can be used for hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, backpacking, birdwatching, horseback riding, picnicking, boating, swimming, camping, and as inspiration for the arts and for the soul -- as long as no mechanized transport is involved. These lands can provide field trips for students, natural laboratories for scientists, and classrooms for amateur naturalists, and their presence can provide economic growth for publishers; sellers of hunting, fishing, and camping equipment and supplies; and for those who make their living from tourism.

Nevadans like me want wilderness, and there are thousands of us represented in our Coalition. Only God can make the wilderness, where everything seems to work as it should, but only the Congress can designate which and how much of our God-given wild country can be preserved as wilderness and provide to posterity some options for its use.

We thank you for hearing our concerns, and urge you to amend S. 722, to add substantially to the number of scenic areas of Nevada's national forests that will be protected for the future of our State and our nation.

Attachments (APPENDIX):
Areas Recommended for Wilderness Designation
Map Showing Location of Proposed Areas
Table Comparing Wilderness Recommendations for Nevada National Forests
Bar Graph Comparisons of Public Lands and Wilderness in Western States

APPENDIX
to Statement of Geneva S. Douglas representing
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters
on S. 722
Las Vegas, Nevada - February 14, 1986

AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

• **Alta Toquima** - a 45,000 acre roadless area of the Toiyabe National Forest in Nye County north of Tonopah where the massive summit of Mt. Jefferson crowns the Toquima Range at almost 12,000 feet, where John Muir confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains and where the U.S. Forest Service has designated a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants and recommended much of this area for wilderness designation. We strongly support the inclusion of this scenic area in S.722.

• **Arc Dome** - 146,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest also in Nye County west of Mt. Jefferson, that ranchers whose cattle have grazed the green-mantled slopes for three-quarters of a century call the "island in the sky", and the source of the Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, which with 18 other creeks in the area provide dependable water to support mountain lion and bighorn sheep as well as cattle on their summer range. The Forest Service twice recommended this area for wilderness designation. We strongly support the inclusion of this worthy area in S.722.

• **Boundery Peak** - 9,400 acres of the Nevada portion of Inyo National Forest in Esmeralda County with high granite summits and tundra-covered flats below the peaks - an area entirely above timberline and unique because our position and both House and Senate bills agree that this area should receive wilderness designation.

• **Currant Mountain** (Duckwater) - 49,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County southwest of Ely, an incredibly rugged and scenic area with white limestone cliffs along the crest of the White Pine range that gleam in the sun, few sources of water, but lush with pinyon pines just outside our proposed wilderness bounderies that the Duckwater Shoshones harvest each year. We urge the Senate to include scenic Currant Mountain in S.722.

• **East Humboldts** - 30,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County southwest of Wells with some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada and which only recently was provided public access to its trout streams, glacial lakes and spectacular ridges through a trail for foot and horse traffic into the southern end of the area. We strongly urge the Senate to include this worthy area in its bill.

• **Elk Mountain** - 12,600 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County north of Wells which is a popular area for big game and upland bird hunting and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the Congressional field trip in July 1985. We are disappointed that neither the House nor the Senate bills include Elk Mt.

• **Excelsior Mountains** - 122,000 acres of the Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests of Mineral County west of Tonopah on the California State line overlooking the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area that are remarkably wild and pristine due to the lack of surface water and developable resources. Neither bill includes this deserving area.

• **Grant Range** - 60,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye County southwest of Ely with over 200 species of wildflowers, more than a dozen of trees, mule deer and bighorn sheep and with areas visitors can enjoy at any level of physical involvement. We urge inclusion of the Grant Range area.

• **Jarbidge Additions** - 54,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Elko County northwest of Wells which include the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, an area unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Snake River drainage. We are pleased that both Senate and House bills recognize the wilderness value of the area, and urge the Senate to increase its acreage.

• **Mt. Charleston** - 47,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of the Spring Mountain Range less then an hour's drive from Las Vegas that provides a startling contrast to the noise, lights, and summer heat of that city with its dense forests of ponderosa, bristlecone, and fir that provide the only habitat in the world for the Palmer chipmunk. Wilderness designation in the high country of this range will compliment the development for recreation and residential use planned and unfolding in the lower elevations surrounding it. We agree with both bills on the designation of this area, with adjustments to allow avalanche control to continue for protection of the Lee Canyon ski area, although we believe the acreage proposed in the Senate bill is inadequate.

• **Mt. Moriah** - 98,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Lincoln and Nye Counties at the center of the eastern border of the State, home of a rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep, with sheer-walled gorges cutting into the mountain mass from the east. We are pleased that both House and Senate bills include this area, and we strongly urge you to agree with at least the acreage proposed in H.R. 3302.

• **Mt. Rose** - 35,000 acres in the Carson Range of the Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe County near Reno, which area a blend of the Great Basin area and the high Sierras to the west, truly an urban wilderness being only minutes away from Nevada's second largest city. We urge the Senate to include this wilderness respite from the growing developments of Reno, Carson Valley, and Lake Tahoe in its bill.

• **Pearl Peak** - 23,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County that afford breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys, and containing the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains. Neither the House nor the Senate the bill contains this beautiful area that we consider worthy of wilderness designation.

• **Quinn Canyon** - 95,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye County that are a natural extension of the jumbled high country of the Grant Range immediately north of it, with high wilderness qualities that were recognized by the Reagan administration in supporting its wilderness designation in November 1981. We urge the Subcommittee to consider its high wilderness qualities and need for protection in developing its position on Nevada's forest wilderness.

• **Ruby Mountains** - 143,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County, truly a crown jewel as their name implies. Heavily glaciated, with multifaceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire blue lakes, the Rubies attract people of all ages who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-county ski. We are amazed that our Senators failed to recognize development pressures threatening the Rubies or the outstanding wilderness value of this area, where boy scouts from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and more distant cities go to experience wilderness, and strongly urge the Subcommittee to add this glorious area to the bill.

• **Santa Rosa Mountains** - 80,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Humboldt County in which the nearly 10,000-foot crests loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys of far north central Nevada and provide habitat for a large population of golden eagles. We urge the Subcommittee to include this home of eagles in the Senate bill.

• **Schell Peaks** - 120,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County of east central Nevada, where the peaks march above timberline for miles and the cliffs fall away into broad basins whose clear streams support elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout among forests of aspen, Douglas and white fir, spruce, and limber and bristlecone pine. We urge the Senate to include this worthy area in S. 722

• **South Snake** (Mt. Wheeler) - 120,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County southeast of the Schell Creek Ranger, containing Wheeler Peak that rises amid lesser peaks to 13,063 feet and has a tiny active glacier on its north face -- the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin. We prefer that this acreage be designated as wilderness, but will support the proposal to create the Great Basin National Park in this spectacular area as it will give our State its first National Park and should be the economic benefit to eastern Nevada and to our entire tourism industry.

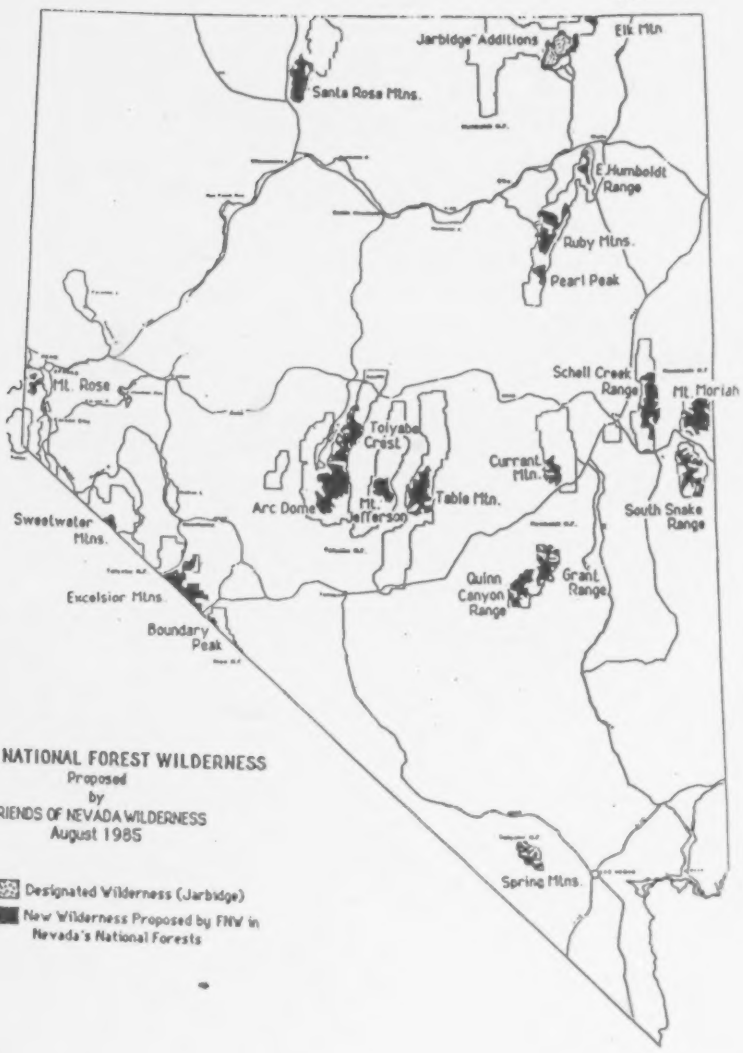
• **Sweetwater Mountains** - 12,260 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lyon County, in a range that begins in California's Mono County and rises to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet and contains an unusual ecosystem with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species. No bill before Congress includes this small but unique area.

• **Table Mountain** - 125,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Nye County above Monitor Valley where the aspens are not in groves along narrow canyons but in forests, and where one can walk for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing. We strongly urge the Subcommittee to include this area in wilderness designation.

• **Toiyabe Crest** - 79,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lander and Nye Counties northwest of Arc Dome containing the "Wild Granites", a 4000-foot granite wall carved by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns as well as habitat for a small herd of bighorn sheep and several streams that are home to Lahonton Cutthroat Trout, an endangered species. No bill now before Congress includes this most worthy area.

NOTE: Five of the areas in our original proposal contained no mining claims according to the May 1985 BLM Geographic Index of Mining Claims, and most contained very few (only 0.35% of claims in Nevada, tying up 24,916 acres) were within our proposed boundaries. Of these claims, 260 were in the South Snake and 247 were in the Table Mountain area. Boundaries set by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs have removed 195 claims from the Table Mountain area and have removed other conflicts in other areas. We have been willing to accomodate these changes when the conflicts appear to have some validity.

Appendix - 4



NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
Proposed
by
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
August 1985

Designated Wilderness (Jarbidge)

New Wilderness Proposed by FNW in Nevada's National Forests

Appendix - 5

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEVADA NATIONAL FORESTS

Roadless Area	Nevada County	Forest Service Proposals RARE II 79	Forest Service Proposals June 85	S 722 Hecht 1985(1)	HR 3382 Reid 1985(2)	FNW Proposal Nov 85(3)
TOIYABE NAT'L FOREST						
Mt. Rose	Washoe	0	0	0	33000	35000
Excelsior	Mineral	122000 (a)	0	0	0	122000 (a)
Toiyabe Crest	Lander/Nye	0	0	0	0	79000
Arc Dome	Nye	100700	94400	0	146000	146000
Alta Toquima (Mt. Jefferson)	Nye	0	31000	0	45000	45000
Table Mountain	Nye	0	0	0	113000	125000
Mt. Charleston (Spring Mountains)	Clark	0	32000	32000	47000	47000
Sweetwater	Lyon	12260 (f)	0	0	0	12260 (a)
HUMBOLDT NAT'L FOREST						
Santa Rosa	Humboldt	0	0	0	80000	80000
Jarbridge Additions	Elko	20000	23440	23000	54000	54000
East Humboldts	Elko	0	0	0	30000	30000
Ruby Mountains (Ruby & North Ruby)	Elko	65000	67093	0	87000	143000 (b)
Schell Peaks (South Schell)	White Pine	0	0	0	63000	120000
Mt. Moriah	White Pine	96601 (f)	81743 (c)	73000	88000 (c)	98000 (c)
South Snake Range (Wheeler Pk/Highland)	White Pine	137636 (f)	60151	0	174000 (e)	120000 (d)
Currant Mtn. (Duckwater)	White Pine/ Nye	0	0	0	49000	49000
Grant Range	Nye	98984	53383	0	0	60000
Quinn Canyon	Nye/Linclon	89000	0	0	95000	95000
Elk Mountain	Elko	0	0	0	0	12600
Pearl Peak	Elko	0	0	0	0	23000
INYO NAT'L FOREST						
Boundary Peak	Esmeralda	8900 (a)	8900 (a)	8900 (a)	9400 (a)	9400 (a)
Proposed Wilderness Acres		512584	452110	136900	1113400 (e)	1585260
Further Planning (RARE II)		246497 (f)				
Number of Proposed Areas		18	9	4	15	21

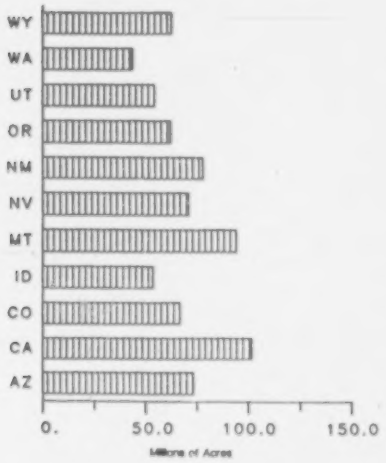
Nat'l Forest Roadless Acres	3640000
Nat'l Forest Acres NOT Eligible	1510156
Nat'l Forest Acres in Nevada	5150156
Nevada Land in Acres	70700000

(1) Laxalt and Hecht, co-sponsors
(2) Reid, sponsor; as amended by Subcommittee on Oct. 31, 1985
(3) Friends of Nevada Wilderness

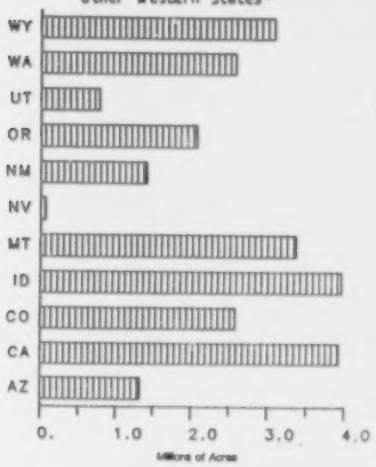
(a) Nevada portion only; additional area in Inyo NF, California
(b) Ruby & North Ruby combined
(c) Includes BLM acreage
(d) Wheeler Pk and Highland combined
(e) Great Basin National Park including Lehman Caves and Wheeler Pk area
(f) Further planning area under RARE II

FNW, November 3, 1985

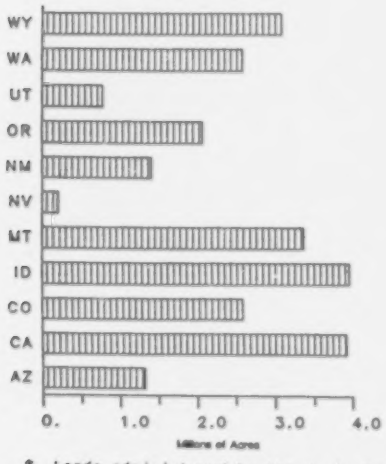
Land Area of Western States



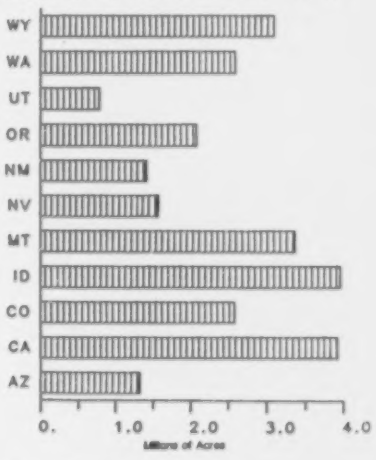
Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other Western States*



Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness Plus Wilderness Proposed by S722 to Wilderness Designated in Other Western States*



Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness Plus Areas Proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other States*



* Lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service only. Other states have additional wilderness areas administered by the National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

November 1985

Senator HECHT. No clapping for either side. Do you have that petition, it will be retained in the subcommittee file, but it will not be a part of the record.

Ms. Douglas, I wouldn't want the taxpayer to have to pay for reproducing these.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. We appreciate it. You know, I am a conservative.

Next. That is everyone? OK, just a couple of short questions here. Bill, you mentioned in your testimony—just a second. I had it a minute ago. On page 2, the Reid bill is 722,000 acres. The amended bill as passed out of the House was 1,100,000 acres. Do you still endorse that? Which one of the bills do you endorse?

Mr. VINSON. I am speaking only to the——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. As reported out of the committee but not passed the House. I am sorry.

Mr. VINSON. I was addressing only the wilderness issue, because as an organization Citizen Alert is not supporting the national park at Mount Wheeler, which is the difference between the 700,000 and the higher figure.

Senator HECHT. There are how many acres in the national park again, 174,000 acres in the national park bill. The bill as reported has 950,000 acres of wilderness.

Mr. VINSON. Well, I think the difference there is the difference between the total acreage for the wilderness under 3302, and the addition of the national park acreage.

Senator HECHT. No, that is not correct, I am told by staff. That is not correct, right? No, Bill. Anyway, we will before the end of the day—will you be here all day?

Mr. VINSON. I cannot be.

Senator HECHT Well, we can send it to you and give you exactly what it is.

Mr. VINSON. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. You mentioned the national park. You don't support the national park. May I ask why?

Mr. VINSON. One of our board members lives at Bigby, and on the basis of that we are not supporting it. [General laughter.]

Senator HECHT. Bill, I have known you a long time.

Mr. VINSON. As an organization. As an individual, I do support it.

Senator HECHT. OK, you are an individual, and you have always been that. What is your opinion on the national park?

Mr. VINSON. I think it is an excellent idea, and I think it is something that would be a great benefit to Nevada.

Senator HECHT. OK, you are on the record as an individual, not as a spokesman for any organization.

Dart——

Mr. ANTHONY. Yes, sir.

Senator HECHT. As we were hearing testimony in Elko and I think in Winnemucca, too, some people who lived in the Jarbidge area are saying they are against wilderness, further extension of wilderness because in a wilderness area the coyotes are there, and you cannot do anything about them, and they are destroying their cattle.

Can you address that, because that has been brought up many times.

Mr. ANTHONY. I think the controversy whether coyotes destroy cattle is long and tiresome, and the position of humane societies as well as this federation is on the public records, both local and State and Federal Governments. I do not think coyotes are bothering the livestock or sheep nor do they protest to be.

Senator HECHT. Well, there are sure a lot of them protesting, I can tell you. After we get the record I want to give it to you.

Mr. ANTHONY. They protest a lot, but they do not come up with the data that is necessary. We know. We are checking it out.

Senator HECHT. Well, they spoke about it. Now I am going to give you a chance to speak on your side of it.

Mr. ANTHONY. I do not think that the wilderness area or the creation of a national park should have anything to do with whether the ranchers or the sheep herders may have a coyote problem or not. That is not the issue here.

Senator HECHT. Well, it is an issue. They made it an issue because they said in the Jarbidge area the coyotes have a refuge. They go in there. You cannot do anything about them. And they come out and kill their livestock.

Mr. ANTHONY. Let us keep one thing in mind. Ranchers, be they raising cattle or sheep, or any other kind of livestock, are using the public lands that belong to all of us here in Nevada as well as the other people in the United States. It is not their private property to do as they wish. I wish the public record, and some of the media reported that we are talking public lands belonging to everybody, not a specific individual or group. If there is a problem there, then they should address it to the right departments. I do not think the problem is paramount in that area, according to our own surveys in there. That belongs to me, whether it is in Elko, whether it is in Clark County, or Reno, or Sparks. It belongs to all of us here in the State of Nevada as long as it is public lands. And we all have to have some input into that.

Senator HECHT. Well, at the moment, as you know, we only have one wilderness area, and this was brought up, and they are against—all of the ranchers around there are against the extention of the Jarbridge because they said we are giving refuge to coyotes, and that is the reason. I just wanted to give you a chance to rebut.

Mr. ANTHONY. What is wrong with giving a refuge to coyotes and other wildlife for a change?

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. I am just giving you a chance for the record to refute their testimony. That is all.

Mr. ANTHONY. If I may for just one moment add also something for the record, we have heard a lot of talk about water rights in previous testimony in other panels. I think the record should clearly indicate that the State of Nevada controls its water, but most of the water rights, if not the vast majority of the percentage of the water rights issued in the State are controlled by a very small group of individuals, and that is called the ranching interests. They control most of the water rights in this State, not the private citizen.

I know that, and you know that, and I am sure everybody else out here knows that, too. Let us make the record very clear. They are saying they are going to lose water rights. The water belongs to us as people in the State of Nevada. They control it through their water rights, permits that they have gotten from my State. They also control the vast majority of the public lands through their AUM leasings from the Federal Government.

We hear a lot of testimony saying that Nevadans do not want Federal intervention on our public lands, and I am to a point in agreement with that, but when 86 percent of Nevada is controlled by the Federal Government and the rest of it is leased, the ranchers control 100 percent of the 86 percent that we cannot touch. We need a national park, and the NFAPO is for that.

Let us make the record clear. I do not want to hear untruths about public lands and who really controls them and uses them and about water rights. The rancher is the control. If you take the ranching industry on a scale of 1 to 10, all 10 Western States together, collectively, they barely even register on the scale. You have more cattle industry in the State of Iowa than you have in all of the 10 Western States.

Let us put that on the record. Economically speaking, for the State of Nevada, you compare—the domestic pet owner contributes more to the State in sales tax for animal-related food, dishes, and collars than the cattle industry will ever dream to do. Let us start paying attention to what the other people think here. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Please withhold your applause. These questions come up, and I did want you to have a chance to state your case for the record, because this record will be read by other members of the committee, and I am trying to conduct fair hearings, so that is the reason. I will give you the chance to expand.

Mr. ANTHONY. I appreciate that very much, for putting it in the record.

Senator HECHT. Russell Butcher, let me just ask you one question briefly, and then we have to go right on, about the national park issue. While certainly I am always happy to hear from people from out of State and certainly learn from people, from professionals from out of State, do you agree with the concept that we should have a State hearing first as far as the national park, and would you attend that type of a hearing?

Mr. BUTCHER. Mr. Chairman, I certainly have no objection to any citizen involvement in a process of review and analysis of any of these proposals. In fact, I went all the way up to Ely last week at the invitation of the White Pines Chamber of Commerce to specifically stand there 3 hours and answer questions from mostly the local ranchers and mining interests who have very sincere concerns on their part about a national park.

I think we should all be available to ask questions and to answer questions and to get all of the facts out so that in our democracy we can make an intelligent decision about this and the wilderness issues.

Senator HECHT. This was brought to my attention when I read in the paper—Congressman Mo Udall from Arizona, certainly one of

the great conservationists of our time, brought this out, that we should not—they should not in Washington put a national park anywhere without the input of the citizens of that State, and he questioned—and that is the reason I brought that up to you.

Mr. BUTCHER. I agree with Mo Udall wholeheartedly, absolutely.

Senator HECHT. I respect him very greatly. That is all. Let us go right on with the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Robert Warren, Richard Sumin, Donald Simpson, Charles Hollis, Alan Cox, Thomas Bagan, Charles Salsman.

If you will come up and take your seats on both sides. The panel that should come to the front of the room is Andy Bowers, Maffy Forrester, Ed Costello, Ron Rudin, Joe Mikulich, and Anne Escobedo. That is panel No. 6. Come to the front of the room.

Senator HECHT. We started over there last time. Now let us start over here. Bob, do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT WARREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. WARREN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Robert Warren, and I am executive director of the Nevada Mining Association.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the comments made this morning, I have had to rewrite my comments, which I have done in the margins, and they are as follows.

The national and Nevada wilderness law and its spokesmen, Congressmen Reid and Siberling have made numerous statements about wilderness which we believe are erroneous or subject to misinterpretation by the public.

For example, this morning the Congressman's wife confirmed that Congressman Reid has publicly stated we want less than 1 percent of the lands, and the miners have 99 percent of the lands to dig holes in. This statement reflects the Congressman's lack of understanding or concern for the mining industry. Let's look at the facts which are available to the Congressman.

The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology indicates that 70 percent of Nevada's lands are covered by very deep alluvial soils or heavy lava flows in the mountains. We cannot search for, cannot find, and cannot produce minerals under 70 percent of the lands. Therefore we must subtract the 70 percent. We must also subtract the 6 percent or thereabouts withdrawn for military uses. So now we are restricted on 76 percent of the land.

We must also subtract the 10 percent of private lands that are held in private ownership, so now we are restricted on 86 percent of the land. We must also subtract the 3 percent owned by the State, counties, cities, and school districts, so we are not restricted up to 87 percent of the public lands.

In addition, Mr. Congressman, as you know, we are faced with studies for as much as 5.5 percent of the public lands for wilderness and those of course include the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Forest Service.

So there is very little land left on which some 20,000 Nevadans and their families and some 20,000 additional persons depend upon

for their economic base. In fact, the beneficial impacts of the mining industry are much more broad based. They are the cornerstone of the economy for more than half of Nevada's rural counties. Another bit of misinformation.

The National Wilderness Lobby states that it was seeking less than 1 percent of the public lands for its exclusive use as wilderness, but unfortunately Nevadans have not been told that this less than 1 percent actually represents more than 18 percent of the forest lands in Nevada. In some counties, the impact is more devastating.

In Nye County, for example, the Reid-Seiberling bill would consume more than 24 percent of that county's forest lands. The many existing roads, called ways by the Wilderness Lobby, will be closed, and tragically, new roads will forever be forbidden. Thus, the families, picnickers, campers, hunters, anglers, and the elderly, who must or have to use vehicles for access to these high elevation crown jewels will be told hike in or stay out.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD A. SUMIN, VICE PRESIDENT, BATTLE MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS, BATTLE MOUNTAIN GOLD CO.

Mr. SUMIN. Mr. Senator, my name is Richard Sumin, a native son and vice president of operations of Battle Mountain Gold Co.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my statement concerns basic economics. Battle Mountain Gold Co. is a Nevada Corporation born from out of State corporate investment. During the mid 1960's, Battle Mountain Gold Co.'s predecessor chose to invest large amounts of capital in northern Lander County. It continued to maintain that operation through the cyclical market fluctuations taking when available only the shareholder return out of State. In return, this outside investment provided by shareholders has enabled us to continue an operation in Nevada to provide jobs for our residents, purchase materials from local dealers, and pay local and State taxes.

Battle Mountain Gold Co. is a major supporter of both the economy of Lander County and of north central Nevada. Our company produces gold, a commodity that can be exported and influences positively America's balance of payments. In my opinion, it is this type of supply to the industrial and economic community that will keep our country healthy.

Thus we are advocates of the multiple use concept. The multiple use concept has provisions which allow us to continue the exploration necessary to perpetuate our industry and the benefits it provides to Lander County, the State, and the Nation. We have Federal agencies in place which regulate and guide our actions.

While Nevada should certainly share its beauty, a balance must be struck with the economic needs of its citizens. I read nothing in the Wilderness Act which mandates each individual State a quota of wilderness reserve. We ask only to be able to proceed within the current guidelines of the multiple use concept. It has been widely reported that Nevadans have stated their distaste for permanent lockup of additional vast acreage for the select use of the very few.

We join these Nevadans in opposing this lockup of land, while we would have written the legislation differently. The Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill strikes a balance which, to meet common goals, we feel we can live with.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sumin follows:]

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SUMIN, VICE PRESIDENT BATTLE MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS, BATTLE MOUNTAIN GOLD COMPANY. SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION -- LAS VEGAS CITY HALL, FEBRUARY 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my statement concerns basic economics.

Battle Mountain Gold Company is a Nevada Corporation, born from out of state corporate investment. During the mid 1960's BMGC's predecessor, chose to invest large amounts of capital in Northern Lander County creating a natural resource company, which has been a responsible corporate citizen. This company was a producer of copper. It continued to maintain that operation, through the cyclical market fluctuations, taking, when available, only the shareholder return out of state. In return, this outside investment provided by shareholders has enabled us to continue an operation in Nevada, provide jobs for our residents, purchase materials from local dealers and pay local and state taxes, which, gentlemen, is the creation of wealth.

The deposition of minerals has been such, we must locate and mine commercial deposits where we find the ore. The

industry cannot will mineral deposit locations, although it would be our grandest desire.

Battle Mountain Gold Company is a major supporter of both the economy of Lander county and of North Central Nevada as a whole. Our Company produces gold, a commodity that can be exported and influences positively, America's balance of payments. This also helps return new capital money to Nevada. In my opinion, it is this type of supply to the industrial and economic community, that will keep our country healthy. Thus, we are advocates of the multiple use concept for the federally controlled lands in Nevada. The multiple use concept has provisions which allows us to continue the exploration necessary to perpetuate our industry and the benefits it provides to Lander County, the state and the nation.

We have Federal agencies in place which regulate and guide our actions on the multiple use land. This program might not suit all of the people all of the time, including BMGC, but has at least proven to be workable. Nevada has already succumbed to massive Federal land withdrawals to create locations for other government agencies. While Nevada should certainly share its beauty, a balance must be struck with the economic needs of it's citizens.

We have accepted our current fate with some reservation, but feel that we at some point must say unequivocally that we have had enough. I read nothing in the Wilderness Act, which mandates that each individual state meet a quota of wilderness reserve, yet "outside influence" continues to expound and dictate policy that interferes with state sovereignty. The "selfish miners" have, to date disturbed less land surface than the interstate highway system. We ask only to be able to proceed within the current guide lines of the multiple use concept.

It has been widely reported that Nevadans of all walks have stated their distaste for the permanent lock up of additional vast acreage for the select use of a very few. We join these Nevadans in opposing this lock up of land. While we would have written the legislation differently, the Hecht-Vucanovich-Laxalt bill strikes a balance which, to meet common goals, we feel we can live with.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS BAGAN, ESMERALDA COUNTY, NV

Mr. BAGAN. Gentlemen, my name is Tom Bagan. I am a mining engineer, professionally registered in the State of Nevada, and currently residing in Esmeralda County, NV. My father currently lives in Henderson, and both he and I enjoy prospecting together with our families. Wilderness proponents claim that wilderness will not further restrict vehicular access because there are no roads in these areas now. They also claim that existing mining claims and rights will be honored according to law. These are two of the greatest myths of the wilderness issue. The following is an example of what has happened to my father and me in California.

From 1962 to 1963, my father and uncle staked a group of lode and placer claims in Imperial Valley, CA. These two claims were worked until 1971, with several small pits excavated in rock and frequent improvements made to the jeep trail that leads into the property. The claims were abandoned in 1971 after my uncle's death.

By December 1980, the area in which these claims are located was officially inducted into a wilderness study area of the California desert conservation area and given special status as an area of critical environmental concern because of nearby prehistoric valleys. In 1982 two of the claims restaked by myself and my father, pursuant to 43 CFR 3802 regulations governing wilderness study areas.

A plan of operations was submitted in April 1983 to the BLM in order to perform assessment work. The assessment work was to consist of a dead man anchor in two places along the jeep trail leading to the claims. These anchors were to facilitate winching vehicles up two steep grades. The BLM approved the plan of operations in June 1983, but requiring a $500 reclamation performance bond prior to commencement of the assessment work.

I appealed this requirement during June and July 1983, resulting in the BLM waiving the bond in July 1983. However, BLM simultaneously notified me that they were prohibiting vehicle access beyond the first dead man anchor located approximately half to three-quarters of a mile from the claims. Such actions deprived both installations of any practical significance.

Assessment work is still possible in the area, if approved by the BLM, but the logistics of having to hand-carry tools, equipment or supplies to and from the claims have rendered a de facto restriction on any mining activities on the claims by a small party like myself and my father.

Although this problem involves the BLM, the Forest Service has similar authority to strict access to the wilderness areas, and it is without doubt that there are a number of small miners like myself who have had similar experiences with the Forest Service. The designation of excessive amounts of wilderness not only hurts ranchers and mining companies but also hurts the little guy who is willing to invest his own time, money, labor, and sweat in the natural resource business effort to improve his wellbeing.

I favor support of only that acreage of Forest Service wilderness land that will not conflict with multiple use values. I believe the Laxalt-Hecht bill comes closest to satisfying my concerns.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES G. HOLLIS, SOUTHERN NYE COUNTY MINERS AND PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. HOLLIS. My name is Charles Gary Hollis, and I represent the southern Nye County, NV, Miners and Prospectors Association. I am here today to talk to you about the Laxalt-Hecht bill, which our group will endorse, S. 722. The 32,000 acres of Mount Charleston region set aside for wilderness includes the Carpenter Canyon area. The Carpenter Canyon area is one of the few areas that affords access to the public on a year around basis.

U.S. Forest Service is claiming that the Wallace Canyon area is the most likely place for a recreation area, but it is difficult if not impossible to keep the road maintained year around due to the heavy runoff from the mountains.

The 1972 Mining Act allows individuals to prospect State and Federal lands, placing claims to specified areas. The rights and responsibility of miners is expressly stated in this Act, and the miners of this State for the most part abide by these laws. Reopening old mines hardly takes away from the public use of lands. In fact, responsible miners protect their claims through fencing, shoring, and other safety precautions to assure the safety of the unaware public.

Rural areas are not so dependent upon the gaming industry. The prospector, the miner in the rural areas increased the revenue to their county and State through their mining efforts and paying taxes on production, employee taxes, and fees imposed by both levels.

The county commissioners of 17 counties within the State of Nevada held hearings in 1985 seeking public opinion regarding these additional wilderness areas in the State. Sixteen out of the 17 counties voted no. We strongly feel that the people of the State of Nevada and the representatives should be the only individuals to make decisions regarding the dispersement of public lands. It seems out of line that someone from another State should do a study at the taxpayers' expense about our State, then make recommendations and try to implement them. We certainly have not gone to the State of Ohio to tell the residents and business people there how to conduct themselves.

In closing, the people of the State of Nevada take our State's rights very seriously. We have no tolerance for interference from the Federal Government on issues that would seem to be a State concern.

God bless you that you might make the right decision on this matter, Mr. Chairman.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES W. SALSMAN, OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT, FREEPORT-McMORAN GOLD CO.

Mr. SALSMAN. My name is Charles Salsman. I represent Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co. I am the operations superintendent at the Jerritt Canyon operation in Elko County.

Senator, thank you for the opportunity to speak today in Las Vegas, and I want to say that I support your wilderness bill and the efforts that you have made to protect those lands which are of special scenic beauty and meet the criteria for designation as wilderness, and we therefore support H.R. 1686 and S. 722.

The purpose of my presentation this morning is to briefly explain some of the economic impacts of mining on the State of Nevada. Since its beginning, Freeport-McMoRan has paid more than $45 million in taxes, insurance and miscellaneous costs that relate to benefits in the State. More than $210 million in direct operating costs results in taxes on a gross revenue of about $490 million.

In addition to that, Freeport-McMoRan has invested more than $150 million in that operation within the State. The impact of this operation in Jerritt Canyon is really put into perspective when you recognize that this area was determined to have no mineral potential prior to 1974, when FMC built their first successful gold exploration hole.

No mining had taken place in the Central Independence Range prior to development of Jerritt Canyon. Also, Rich Reyburn spoke this morning about the total impact of the mining industry, generating more than $670 million in 1985. Of this, more than $600 million was spent on supplies, goods and services, all of which affect the State of Nevada. This makes mining the second largest contributor to the gross State product.

Additionally, there is more than 6,900 employees in the industry, and this figure does not include those jobs which are a direct result of the mining business. Miners also have the highest level of fringe benefits, including savings plans, health benefits, vacation plans, company profit and stock investment plans. This gives the mining industry employees the highest level of discretionary income, and this extra income is often spent on goods and services in the State to promote further development.

In addition to taxes, the State receives funds from the Bureau of Land Management and the mineral leasing payments, and in 1985 received almost $11 million. What does this have to do with wilderness. Simply put, the mining industry plays a major role in the economy of the State. An unwarranted and unnecessary restriction on the industry does not serve the citizens of Nevada or the United States.

I do not suggest that there be no wilderness, but the tie-up of lands for a few which belong to all of us is unreasonable. I do not feel that resources should be developed in the wilderness areas that are already in existence or in national parks, only those lands which truly meet the unique character of wilderness. I fully support your wilderness legislation for Nevada, because it makes good sense for all citizens.

With our more than 8 billion acres of wilderness already designated, it would seem that the requirement that the citizens of

today preserve some lands for future generations is adequately met. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Salsman follows:]

FREEPORT-McMoRan

Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company
Mountain City Star Route
Elko, Nevada 89801
Phone (702) 738-9221
A Subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan Inc.

February 11, 1986

Senator "Chic" Hecht
300 Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 426
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Subject: Wilderness Testimony for Las Vegas Senate Hearing

Dear Senator Hecht:

My name is Charles Salsman and I represent Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company. I am the Operations Superintendent at the Jerritt Canyon operation in Elko County.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak at your Las Vegas hearing. I want to say that I support your wilderness bill and your efforts to protect those lands which are of special scenic beauty and meet the criteria for designation as "Wilderness."

The purpose of my presentation is to explain the economic impact of mining on Nevada. The information I will present comes from existing publications. I will be quoting from "An analysis of the economic impact of the mining industry on Nevada's economy" by John L. Dobra, Glen Atkinson and Robert Barone. It was prepared under the College of Business Administration Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Nevada Reno in 1983. Other information comes from the United States Bureau of Mines and the Securities and Exchange Commission reports and the Corporate Annual Report for Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company.

Presently, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company has, at its mine near Elko, approximately 305 employees earning a payroll of about $10.7 million. This is an average annual wage of more than $35,000 per employee. The company has a gross annual revenue of about $81.8 million. The gross cost of the operation is approximately $34.4 million for supplies, materials and services. The company also pays more than $7.7 million annually for taxes, insurance and miscellaneous items. You can see from these figures that the company has a significant impact on the Elko county area and on the state as a whole.

Since its beginning, the company has paid more than $45 million in taxes, insurance and miscellaneous costs, more than $210 million for gross costs on a gross revenue of about $490

million. The capital investment in the property is about $150 million.

The impact of an operation like Jerritt Canyon is put into even better perspective when it is pointed out that this area was determined to have no mineral potential prior to 1974 when FMC drilled the first successful gold exploration hole. No mining had taken place in the central Independence Range prior to Jerritt Canyon. How many other such deposits are there in proposed wilderness areas that have been reported by others as having no mineral potential?

Clearly, the economic impact of this operation and the many other mining operations in the state is measurable and significant.

The mining industry in Nevada generated about $622 million in the year 1985. Of this total, approximately $600 million was spent for supplies, goods, and services all of which effect taxes.

This makes mining the second largest contributor to the State Gross Product. There are more than 6,900 employees in the industry and this figure <u>does not</u> include those jobs that exist as a result of the mining business. Employees in the mining industry are the second highest paid employees in the state--second to the construction industry on a monthly basis. If you consider that the mines operate year-round, the annual wage for mining is the highest in the state. Miners also have the highest level of fringe benefits including savings plans, health benefits, vacation and company profit and stock investment plans. This gives mining industry employees the highest level of discretionary income. This <u>extra</u> income is often spent on goods and services in the state which promotes further development. It is not surprising that these high wages bring relatively highly skilled individuals to the state.

I quote "Mining is an important element, if not the major part of the tax base for most of the rural counties of Nevada." In 1981 and 1982, 11 of the 17 counties in Nevada received public sector contributions ranging from 18% to 76% of their total. This is a tremendous input to the counties. Of the net proceeds of mines tax collected in 1982, 98% was collected in counties other than Carson City, Clark, Douglas and Washoe. Since Reno, Sparks, Carson City and Las Vegas residents have a low propensity to spend money outside their community how do they benefit from the mining industry? These urban communities benefit because the mining community must go to those commercial centers for purchase of supplies, materials, and services. The metro communities then have more jobs and the resulting public sector contributions, ie., taxes. The result is a multiplier effect on the economy. Whenever purchases are made and delivered in a specific county that county receives the taxes, if a purchase is made outside the state all counties benefit equally from the taxes collected.

In addition to taxes, the state receives funds from the Bureau of Land Management for mineral leasing payments. In 1981 the state received about $10.9 million from these leases.

Exploration companies also add significantly to the economy of Nevada. Freeport-McMoRan Gold Co. has spent $10's of millions in Nevada over the past 10 years for exploration and employs approximately 80 people in the state. Other exploration companies spend million of dollars each year in the hopes of discovering new mineral deposits.

Since mining is an export base industry, i.e., it sends most of the product outside the state for consumption, it provides real and sustained growth. The regional economy builds up around these output centers and the infra structure grows to build up residentiary industries for local consumption.

What does all this have to do with wilderness? Simply put, the mining industry plays a major role in the economy of the state and unnecessary and unwarranted restriction of the industry does not serve the citizens of Nevada or the United States of America. There are any number of safeguards in place to protect the environment, and that has been mandated by Congress. Wilderness is not a good guy-bad guy issue. It is one of prudent use and good judgement. As technology allows the lands of this country to be developed, those areas which do not contain mineralization can be put into wilderness, but to lock up lands forever where resources can better serve man's needs is foolish. I do not suggest there should be no wilderness, but to tie up for the few the lands which belong to all of us is not reasonable. I don't feel resources should be developed in the wilderness areas already in existence or in the national parks. No state should have to give up a specified percentage of its lands to wilderness designation, only those lands which truly meet the unique character of "Wilderness."

I fully support your wilderness legislation for Nevada because it makes good sense for all citizens. With more than 80 million acres of "Wilderness" already designated, it would seem that the requirement that the citizens of today preserve some lands undisturbed for future generations is adequately met.

Sincerely,

C.W. Salsman

Charles W. Salsman
Operations Superintendent

CWS:sc

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Your entire statement will be part of the testimony. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ALAN D. COX, REGIONAL MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, HOMESTAKE MINING CO.

Mr. COX. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Alan Cox. I am with Homestake Mining Co. in Reno. My brief oral comments have been extracted from the written testimony submitted.

Homestake is North America's largest gold-producing and exploration company, with other interests in energy resources and base metals. The company was founded in 1877, with its beginnings in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where Homestake Mining has been in continuous business for over 108 years.

In recent years the emphasis of our minerals exploration effort has been concentrated on the State of Nevada. I can assure you Homestake is not alone in this regard. Over the past 5 years, Homestake has expended approximately 60 percent of its U.S. exploration budget in Nevada. We believe that this is a strong indication of our belief that Nevada is and will continue to be a premier area for location and production of hard rock mineral resources.

Some of the wilderness designations proposed in S. 722 and H.R. 1686 encompass areas of high mineral potential. Homestake, however, supports this proposed legislation as a moderate and reasoned alternative to H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304, which now include numerous areas that have moderate or high mineral potential, as recognized by several agencies and the minerals industry.

Two specific areas which are of particular concern to Homestake are the proposals for wilderness designation in the Arc Dome and Mount Jefferson areas. We would urge you to continue to exclude these areas in S. 722. Not only are portions of these areas highly mineralized and the focus of much exploration activity, but they are also in close proximity to a major operating mine in which Homestake holds a partnership.

Several areas in the Arc Dome portion of the Toiyabe Range are currently under active mineral exploration by Homestake and others. The Toiyabe forest draft EIS indicates the Arc Dome has a moderate to high mineral potential. Interesting, USGS and the Bureau of Mines have not conducted the required mineral assessments for the Arc Dome.

In the Mount Jefferson area, Homestake and other mineral exploration concerns continue to hold prospect positions. We agree that the existing Mount Jefferson research and natural area should be protected and managed to meet RNA objectives for the other portions of the area.

We would support an effort to withdraw the RNA from mineral location. This would be far more preferable than designating a huge wilderness area around the existing RNA and encompassing large mineralized areas. Withdrawal of large areas of Nevada with recognized mineral potential has severe and immediate and long-term mineral implications for Homestake and the mining industry in general.

Additionally, significant negative economic impacts would most assuredly occur in many rural communities where great dependence is placed upon the availability of areas for the mineral industry.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cox follows:]

Testimony of
Homestake Mining Company
before the
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Reserved Water and Resource Conservation

In the Matter of:

Congressional Hearings on
Nevada Wilderness Bills-
S.722 and Others

Senate Field Hearing
Friday, February 14, 1986
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Las Vegas City Hall
Commissioners Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

Submitted by:
Alan D. Cox
Regional Manager -
Environmental Affairs

Testimony of
Homestake Mining Company
before the
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Public Lands Subcommittee
February 14, 1986

Homestake Mining Company appreciates the opportunity to offer comments regarding the designation of wilderness lands in Nevada. As you are well aware, it is an issue filled with strong emotions and legitimate concerns over future consequences.

First, in order that you might understand our perspective better, a brief description of Homestake Mining Company. Homestake is North America's largest gold producing and exploration company, with other interests in energy resources and base metals. Homestake has been a major gold producer for over 108 years. The company was founded in 1877 to mine the Homestake claim in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This mine has been a continuous producer since that time.

In recent years, the emphasis of our minerals exploration effort has been concentrated on the State of Nevada. I can assure you Homestake is not alone in this regard. Nevada is of a singular importance to the domestic mining and minerals industry. Five of the six major gold discoveries of the past decade are located in Nevada. This, coupled with the identification of significant but unexplored mineralized areas, account for Nevada's attraction. Not only the mining industry, but also the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service have identified many of the areas recommended for wilderness in H.R. 3302 (Reid Wilderness Bill), and H.R. 3304 (Seiberling Wilderness Bill) as having moderate or high mineral potential. Some of the Wilderness designations proposed in

S722 (Hecht, Laxalt Wilderness Bill), and H.R. 1686 (Vucanovich Wilderness Bill) also encompass areas of high mineral potential. However, Homestake Mining Company supports this proposed legislation as a moderate and reasoned alternative to H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304.

It is worth noting that there is widespread recognition of the high mineral potential of the proposed western extension of the existing Jarbidge Wilderness. Active mining claims cover a large portion of the area, indicating more than a cursory interest by individuals and companies involved in mining.

Homestake's primary concern, however, is with proposals for wilderness designation of the Arc Dome and Mt. Jefferson areas. We would urge you to continue to exclude these areas in S722. Not only are portions of these areas highly mineralized and the focus of much exploration activity, but they are also in close proximity to a major operating mine in which Homestake holds a partnership.

The Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Toiyabe Forest indicates that Arc Dome has a "moderate to high" mineral potential. The Nevada Department of Minerals and the U.S. Bureau of Mines have both referenced the area as significant for potential precious, base and strategic minerals. Interestingly, the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines have not conducted the required mineral assessment surveys for Arc Dome. Several areas in this portion of the Toiyabe Range are currently under active mineral exploration by Homestake and others.

In the Mt. Jefferson area, Homestake and other mineral exploration concerns continue to hold prospect positions. The proposed Toiyabe Forest Plan states that the area, in general, is "...heavily mineralized and includes active mining near the historical sites of Manhattan, Belmont, and Round Mountain." These locations are in close proximity to the Mt. Jefferson area, and wilderness designation could clearly restrict or preclude current and future mineral exploration in this portion of the Toquima Range.

The Mt. Jefferson Research Natural Area (RNA), established in 1973, currently provides adequate protection of the unique resource values (archaeological, vegetative communities, etc.) in the uppermost portions of Mt. Jefferson. We agree that the existing RNA should be protected and managed to meet RNA objectives. We would also support an effort to withdraw the RNA from mineral location. This would be far more preferable than designating a huge wilderness area around the existing RNA and encompassing large mineralized areas.

The recently prepared Toiyabe and Humboldt Forest Plans predict that exploration for and development of hard rock mineral deposits is expected to increase. We would agree. Nevada is one of the most mineralized states in the nation and very important to the survival of our domestic minerals industry. Over the past five years, Homestake has expended approximately sixty (60) percent of its U.S. exploration budget in Nevada. We believe that this is a strong indication of our belief that Nevada is and will continue to be a premier area for location and production of hard rock mineral resources.

As the Humboldt Forest DEIS correctly notes: "One of the primary factors affecting locatable mineral activities is the amount of land open to exercise the mining laws." If the demand for metal commodities continues to increase, as predicted, then the withdrawal of areas with widely recognized mineral potential is nationally self-defeating.

One conclusion reached in the Forest Service wilderness evaluation is that "the difficulty in predicting where new mineral deposits may be found leads to the conclusion that areas capable of mineral or energy exploration may someday include the entire forest." Homestake concurs with this observation. We would suggest that this does not preclude wilderness designation. It does, however, imply that it is inappropriate to propose such designations in areas where there is widespread agreement as to mineral potential.

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of Nevada to the domestic minerals industry nor the importance of that industry to the rural communities in many areas of the state. The withdrawal of large areas in Nevada with recognized mineral potential has severe immediate and long term implications for Homestake specifically and the mining industry in general. Additionally, significant negative economic impacts would most assuredly occur in many rural communities where great dependance is placed upon availability of areas for the mineral industry to search for and locate mineral resource commodities.

We ask you to consider whether multiple use may be the best use for many areas that have been suggested for wilderness, particularly those in H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304. Effective multiple use management

has the capability of adequately safeguarding the environment while, in most cases, allowing for mineral development. We would suggest to you that the cumulative effects of continued removal of lands from mineral exploration and development are immediate threats to the mineral industry with the long term potential for adverse impacts upon the nation as a whole.

We hope our comments will be given serious consideration as a Nevada Wilderness Bill progresses through Congress. We understand the difficulty in arriving at decisions for public land use that are responsive to the desires of many interest groups. We commend your efforts in holding field hearings in order to reach such an equitable decision.

A23:10

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Because of the amount of witnesses we have—and I should have made an announcement earlier in the day—we are going to continue right on. I know the hearing is from 9 to 12, but obviously that was impossible all around the State, and with the interest. We are not going to break for lunch, we are just going to continue right on.

The next witnesses, please. Thank you all very much from this panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 6, Andy Bowers, Maffy Forrester, Ed Costello, Ron Rudin, Joe Mikulich, Anne Escobedo.

Panel 7 can come down to the front row seats now. Mark Bird, Clarice Goldbery, Ann Pitchford, Bill de la Garza, Cheri Cinowski, Elbert Edwards, Walter Barbuck, Mary McNeil.

Senator HECHT. We will switch right now.

Joe, do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF JOE MIKULICH, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. MIKULICH. Yes, Senator, members of the committee.

My name is Joe Mikulich. I was born and raised here in Las Vegas, and I am mostly concerned about the Mount Charleston area, the so-called wilderness area. There is only one subdivision up in there, and this is in the Neal Canyon area of Mount Charleston, consisting of about 70 lots. I would say approximately 40 of them now have buildings or homes on them. And the water rights is what I am mostly concerned with for the subdivision.

Years ago, I put in an application for the water rights in my name, Joseph B. Mikulich, and others, for a subdivision. Due to lengthy applications and protests of other parties, we were granted or I was granted under my application the water rights of a spring approximately right on the fringes of the so-called wilderness designation in the Mount Charleston area.

Now, talking to the Forestry Service and other people, when I applied for the water, I understand the water belongs to the State of Nevada, and it is designated, or the legal recourse of applications and so forth, and then the water permits are granted or denied in the State Court.

But I am now informed by certain people here in our local forestry service if the spring that provides the water for the association or for the subdivision in the canyon, that we have a trespass right to trespass on the forestry service, on their lands. But if it becomes a wilderness area, then we will be denied the access to the spring, and therefore the spring and everything else would have to be put back in the original condition that is within the boundaries of the wilderness area.

There is another application for which I have submitted the complete transcript and testimony and so forth to the committee for future study.[1]

In the Mount Charleston area there has been—if it does become a wilderness area, there are very few roads in that whole area. There are a lot of senior citizens in this area. We are in the so-called Sun Belt where a lot of people do go up there. A lot of handi-

[1] Retained in subcommittee files.

capped people are there. If it becomes a wilderness area, the handicapped people, the snowbirds, the water rights, and everything else would revert back to the government of the State of Nevada, and what happens to the water rights then, I don't know. I am very concerned about this, and I want to thank this committee for listening to me today. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Joe.

Next.

STATEMENT OF ANNE ESCOBEDO, EVERGREEN ALLIANCE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA, MOUNT CHARLESTON, NV

Ms. ESCOBEDO. My name is Anne Escobedo. I live in Mount Charleston, NV, and I am speaking as a representative of the Evergreen Alliance of Southern Nevada. The Evergreen Alliance includes in its membership residents of Mount Charleston, Boulder City, Indian Springs, and Las Vegas. We thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning.

Our organization is opposed to Senate bill 722 for the reason that it designates far too little acreage as wilderness. We support instead the amount of acreage proposed in House of Representatives bill 3302 as amended, which will designate 14 roadless areas in Nevada as wilderness.

Everyone concerned about Nevada's future realizes that with increasing population, conflicts will inevitably arise over uses of our State's land. Nevadans have seen our State's population grow at a tremendous rate, fueled by the gaming in nuclear industries.

As this growth continues, it is time that residents pause and think about what we want Nevada to be like in the years to come. We should as what quality of life we want to offer our children, what lifestyles should be available to those who consider leaving other parts of the country to make Nevada their home.

Those of us who grew up in the industrial States of the Northeast come from areas with no wildlands left to protect. Their residents envy Nevada's opportunity to set-aside lands as wilderness for the future.

Nevada has become widely known for its gaming as an ever increasing nuclear and military testing range and as a possible dumping ground for multiple levels of nuclear waste. Is this what we want for your future? Most of Nevada is and will continue to be open to all kinds of development. But we have reached the point where a balance is needed.

Nevada is running far behind other Western States in designating wilderness. At present we have only 65,000 acres of wilderness while the 4 States of comparable size in the West have 12 to 60 times more wilderness.

The acreage proposed in bill H.R. 3302 as amended is only a tiny portion of Nevada's land. Now is the time to make the decision to preserve some of the beautiful unspoiled portions of our State by setting them aside as wilderness for future generations to enjoy.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Andy, do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF ANDY BOWERS, LAKE TAHOE, NV

Mr. BOWERS. My name is Andy Bowers. My business is helicopter skiing in the Ruby Mountains, to be specific.

I wholeheartedly support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill, because the alternative I am faced with is to close my business. The business is called Ruby Mountain Heliski. It has been a business going on 9 years now, and it is a business that provides hundreds of people from all the States, mostly States other than Nevada, with a wilderness experience. It also provides Opal County with a lot of needed revenue during its toughest economic period of the year.

If Ruby Mountain Heliski is forced to close because of this proposed wilderness designation by the House, it would mean that virtually no one, only a very select few, would see the Ruby Mountains in the winter. It would also mean that there would be 12 people immediately put out of work, and a negative impact to the county.

I just think this is rather ludicrous. The wilderness bill would stop activity that is providing people with a wilderness experience, and I think that it would be very wrong to do so because only a very select few would have the capability of seeing that area during the winter months.

The sport of helicopter skiing does not damage the environment. I am usually landing helicopters for brief moments of time on 6 to 12 feet of snow, and the skiers leave nothing behind but their tracks. And so I really hope that this is considered and that the Ruby Mountain Heliski is allowed to exist.

Currently, the most practical bill for this is the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ED COSTELLO, CAMP OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. COSTELLO. My name is Ed Costello. I own a home in the Camp Our Lady of the Snows subdivision in Lee Canyon. Our water source is a spring, as Joe mentioned, though I have an alternative water source of a well, so other than that the only source of water is to truck it in, or the spring. The spring, according to the Forest Service, is marginally included in this wilderness.

We are talking about a matter of feet here. I did not pursue this any farther than that point, because to send a surveyor up there, I found out that the Forest Service designation on their map is a tentative line, which means that we could say that the spring is included now, and next week they could draw another line, and it wouldn't be included, so what I am asking is this.

If the wilderness designation goes according to the big figure, I don't know the numbers, but if the House bill is passed, could there be some provision made to allow us to have an inclave built, or something of that nature, so we could have the spring and the transmission line, because they would both be incompatible with Government regulations in a wilderness area.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MAFFY FORRESTER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. FORRESTER. I am Maffy Forrester. I am from the Lee Canyon ski area up at Mount Charleston.

During the past couple of months, we have been accused of engaging in a political battle and of being the puppets of outside mining interests. Let me assure you that neither did we have politics in mind nor knowledge of any organized effort in opposition to the Reid-Seiberling wilderness bill, and we tried to assure that the avalanche above Lee Canyon would be excluded from any wilderness boundaries.

During this time, however, we spent many times studying the wilderness proposals for Nevada and for Mount Charleston in particular, and feel strongly that the additional acreage proposed in the Reid-Seiberling bill severely limits the use of the Mount Charleston Recreation Area as a prime recreation resource for the majority of the people residing in Clark County.

In our 23 years on Mount Charleston, we have come to love the mountain, and we recognize that this is a beautiful scenic area, all the more so since it rises above the desert. The wilderness boundaries as drawn by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovich set-aside to be preserved as wilderness an area that surrounds Charleston Peak, ringed by the ridges of the encircling mountains.

This is the area of the bristlecones and the relatively untouched alpine forests already reachable only by foot. The 15,000 additional acres proposed by Representative Reid lie along the faces of these ridges, in some areas reaching to touch the shoulders of the paved roads. The boundaries touch the privately owned lands and the edges of established community recreation sites and campgrounds.

This acreage is in no danger from timber or mining interests, nor even from commercial development. There is no mining within the forest. The timber is not of commercial value nor quantity. The area is and has been managed by the Forest Service under its concept of watershed recreation. There are stringent controls on any development within the forest areas of Mount Charleston both by the Forest Service and by Clark County.

No further limitations are needed or desirable in order to maintain this recreation area for the expanding population of Clark County. We have brought with us today signed petitions and copies of letters which were sent to Representative Reid. We join with these neighbors, who all strongly feel that it is in the best interest of all the citizens of Clark County to support the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill, and to oppose any additional lands in the Mount Charleston area being put into the restrictive category of wilderness. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Just two fast questions here that I have to get cleared up in my mind. Ed Costello, our bill, would that affect you at all?

Mr. COSTELLO. No; you are miles away. Your bill doesn't come within 2, 3, 4 miles of us.

Senator HECHT. But the amended bill that passed out of the committee, the Reid bill does affect you?

Mr. COSTELLO. I think a fairminded person could walk up there and walk off this thing here and take the Forest Service position that you can spit between the two points.

Senator HECHT. That is pretty close.

Mr. COSTELLO. It is awful close, and I do not think anybody can tell you whether that spring is included now or not. It is going to take a surveyor, but then if you have got a proposed line, why spend money for a surveyor?

Senator HECHT. So your question to us was, can anything be done about it? You always try to do everything you can.

Mr. COSTELLO. If the expended wilderness area gets on, can you in some way exclude that spring, just draw a little culdesac or something around it?

Senator HECHT. I am told by staff you can absolutely do that.

Mr. COSTELLO. We would appreciate it.

Senator HECHT. I think skiing has been part of southern Nevada. In fact, I think it is one of the few spots in America where you can swim and ski in the same day.

Mr. COSTELLO. We would appreciate having a good source of water.

Senator HECHT. OK, Ed.

Ms. Forrester, does our bill affect you in any way?

Ms. FORRESTER. No; the boundaries on the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill, we went over these last summer before the Reid bill came in. We went over them with Bob Wise, district ranger, and we felt that there was no problem presented to the ski area in any way by the boundaries in the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill.

Senator HECHT. Andy, I ask you the same question. Does our bill affect you?

Mr. BOWERS. Your bill does not.

Senator HECHT. Does not at all?

Mr. BOWERS. It does not affect me. It would allow me to continue in business and show people a wonderful wilderness experience.

Senator HECHT. The amended Reid bill does?

Mr. BOWERS. The amended Reid bill does. The original Reid bill would allow me to exist. But the amended Reid bill would put me out of business very quickly.

Senator HECHT. I just wanted to get that into the record in my mind because I wasn't clearly understood on that. Thank you very much.

Next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is Mark Bird, Clarice Goldbery, Dan Pitchford, Bill DeLagarza, Cheri Cinkowski, Albert Edwards, Walter Babuck, and Mary McNeil.

Panel No. 8 should come down to the front row now. Leonard Rice, George Baxter, Lance Devis, Chris Barnard, Gene Davis, Bob Wright.

Senator HECHT. OK, we will start on this side over here. How about this gentleman on the end? Would you please identify yourself?

STATEMENT OF MARK BIRD, HENDERSON, NV

Mr. BIRD. Yes; my name is Mark Bird. I am proud to be a Nevada citizen. I am proud of our magnificent engineer marvels, like Hoover Dam. I am proud of our tradition in mining and the history of Nevada State, and I am entirely for the wilderness proposal as enacted by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and I would like to state several reasons for that.

To the left of us is Utah, with 15 wilderness units. To the south of us is Arizona, with 49 wilderness units. To the west of us is California, with 60 wilderness units. Clearly, Nevada can do far better than one wilderness unit. Over 10 million people visit Lakes Tahoe and Mead every year. Many of these people have wilderness experiences either from the shore or from the lakes themselves.

I believe the wilderness currently accounts for 10 to 20 times the amount of revenue as the entire mining industry in Nevada. We do need mining for microphones, for refrigerators, for other necessities. However, some people say we need these lands for strategic mining. We need to take into account that both superpowers currently have about 10,000 strategic missiles. We need to ask ourselves: Do we need more strategic mining?

I would like to give another reason for wilderness is the biblical reason. I may not be a big biblical scholar, but I do know that there is one critical figure in the Bible who spent 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. What a profound experience it must have been. What insights he must have had into human nature, compassion and charity, et cetera. I wonder how much of the wisdom and morality in the Bible is due to that wilderness experience. I wonder how much of Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic history is perhaps due to that wilderness experience. I wonder how much of our art and literature is perhaps due to that wilderness experience.

Many of our artists and writers have attributed their writing to that key figure in Western civilization. Isaac Newton was born on Christmas Day. I wonder how much our science is due to that wilderness experience. In the early 1800's a young man had a religious conversion in the forested wilderness of Vermont. That man was Joseph Smith. I wonder how much of the Mormon religion is due to the wilderness experience.

I wonder how much of American history is due to wilderness experience the settlers and frontiersmen, et cetera, have had. I wonder how much of world history perhaps is due to that wilderness experience that person had 2,000 years ago when he spent those 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM de la GARZA, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DE LA GARZA. My name is Bill de la Garza. I live in Las Vegas, NV. I have a prepared statement for you which gives you some of my views, and I am not going to read it all. I am just going to summarize it very quickly.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. I want to highlight three key points. One is that all these wilderness areas are being selected as we were being

led to believe for a select few, and I disagree with that. I have been hiking for many years, and every time I go to a wilderness area, I see young and old families, rich and poor, and this has been verified by the studies done by the Forest Service because they have a report that verifies this, and it is summarized in their book called "Wilderness Management."

They find that the average wilderness visitor is a group of a party of two to four people. They are on foot or horseback. Their primary interests are fishing and photography. And they are most commonly a family group. It is not select people. They are average citizens. And that we have got to keep in mind.

Another issue is the point of the mining interests. I looked up some data in the book that was published by the Nevada Employment Security Department. It is called Nevada Occupational Projection from 1983 to 1990. In the last year that the data was available, 1983, they quote that there are 398,070 people employed in Nevada, and of that number 5,950 are employed in mining.

That indicates that there is 1½ percent of the population in Nevada in mining employment, and I think that is significant. There is a similar number for farming that is available in the Department of Commerce publication income estimates from 1929 to 1982, there again, the last year the data was available for, and millions of dollars for the State of Nevada.

They indicate there are 7,738 total for the State in nonfarm income and 52 in farming income. That is two-thirds of a percent farming income versus nonfarming income. So, I want to urge you to increase the amount of wilderness in the State of Nevada. I am for the bill, H.R. 3302, as amended. I align myself with the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and I urge you to increase the amount of wilderness in the State of Nevada.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. de la Garza follows:]

TESTIMONY

before

SENATE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman

Senator Chic Hecht

by

Bill de la Garza
4469 Via San Marco
Las Vegas, NV 89103

February 14, 1986

AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This statement is prepared in order to expand on my verbal testimony, which is limited to three minutes.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of more wilderness areas for the Silver State, the State of Nevada. I support HR 3302(as amended) and want to take this opportunity to urge the Senate to increase the amount of designated wilderness areas in Nevada by more than the present bill(S.722).

I am interested in several facets of the arguments for an increase in the wilderness areas, however, my main interest is to protect the land, its fisheries, its flora and the animal life for the future generations of Americans.

I started hiking and backpacking in my later years because when I was younger there were other things on my mind which I pursued just as vigorously then as I now pursue this issue. The areas where I started hiking and backpacking were established generations ago and it is a central point. Somebody, or a group of people, unkown to me did something in the 1930's and 1940's which I then used in the 1970's. I now have a chance to return the favor. I can help in the 1980's to save the same kind of land for unknown future generations.

Thus, you see, I am repaying a large debt; I have 12 years of free use of the public lands (I keep hearing that they belong to me just as much as anybody else). I plan to continue using these wilderness areas for viewing, fishing, photography, and hiking until they drag me, kicking and screaming, back to civilization and until I am so old that I cannot walk.

I also want to take the opportunity to comment on some of my pet peeves; items which are noted on the enclosed copies of Senator Hecht's Washington Report to his constituency. In addition I am enclosing copies of a local business newspaper editorial and my response to that editorial.

Sincerely,

William de la Garza

William de la Garza, PhD

encl. 1 Copies of "Washington Report" and my response
encl. 2 An editorial and my response

Washington Report Vol.1 No. 6 Dec. 1985 [Enclosure #1] Sheet 1 of 2

Roadless Wilderness Areas Not For Everyone

Without a doubt, no issue has been more misunderstood by Nevada city dwellers than the issue of how much Wilderness we should lock up in vast, roadless areas of our State. We all want to preserve our beautiful scenic areas for future generations. The major question is how much of society should be allowed to enjoy the natural beauty of our land.

With nearly 90 percent of Nevada already owned by some agency of the federal government, it is imperative for those of us in Congress to exercise good judgement before we rush to permanently lock up millions of additional acres of U.S. Forest Service land and close it off to all but a handful of hardy backpackers. Most Nevadans tend to agree, especially once they understand the difference between a scenic National Park and a roadless Wilderness area.

Senator Laxalt, Congressman Vucanovich and I introduced legislation last spring that would designate four new Wilderness areas totaling 137,000 acres. In September, Congressman Reid introduced his own bill: 10 sites and 722,900 acres. Ohio's representative, John Seiberling proposes locking up 19 Nevada sites totaling 1.4 million acres. Obviously, we are sharply divided on this question.

The only public hearings thus far came in October before a House subcommittee which produced a bill proposing nearly one million acres and includes the creation of a Great Basin National Park in the Mt. Wheeler area of White Pine County. Because few Nevadans were heard on this out benefit of public hearings.

All along our tour, Nevadans expressed the view that the multiple land-use concept has kept our State beautiful and open to all, not just to those physically able to climb mountains and backpack.

In early September, one constituent stated it well. He wrote: "A wilderness area is the singularly most discriminating concept to ever evolve in our federal statutory scheme. A wilderness area is so completely restrictive by way of access and use of land that enormous numbers of American citizens will be forever prohibited from ever viewing the magnificent lands so classified." He added, "I agree that beautiful land should be preserved and not destroyed. However, the lands belong to all of the citizens and not just a few.

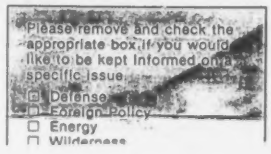
Hiking with staff and park rangers at Mt. Wheeler during "Chat with Chic" Tour, 1985.

The wilderness area prohibits the use or viewing by millions of Americans who suffer various handicaps. The restrictions discriminate and preclude the use of or viewing of the lands to a majority of Americans due to age (too

the impact of such restrictions on our ranching, mining, and tourism industries.

The Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill recognizes the fact that this Forest Service Wilderness bill is only the first in a series of Wilderness proposals to be decided for Nevada. The Bureau of Land Management is already conducting Wilderness studies on more than four million acres in our State. The Fish and Wildlife Service has also recommended more than a million acres, and the National Park Service is proposing several hundred thousand additional acres of Wilderness.

In each case, any Wilderness legislation should strive to achieve a proper balance between those Nevadans who wish to use our land for a variety of activities, and the special interest groups who want it all for themselves.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Defense
Foreign Policy
Energy
Wilderness

Sheet 2 of 2

and a roadless Wilderness area.

Senator Laxalt, Congressman Vucanovich and I introduced legislation last spring that would designate four new Wilderness areas totaling 137,000 acres. In September, Congressman Reid introduced his own bill: 10 sites and 722,900 acres. Ohio's representative, John Seiberling proposes locking up 19 Nevada sites totaling 1.4 million acres. Obviously, we are sharply divided on this question.

The only public hearings thus far came in October before a House subcommittee which produced a bill proposing nearly one million acres and includes the creation of a Great Basin National Park in the Mt. Wheeler area of White Pine County. Because few Nevadans were heard on this issue, I've scheduled five public hearings in February on the Wilderness proposals. They will be held in Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, Reno and Las Vegas. Hopefully, we'll be able to get a strong consenus of what Nevadans want.

The Nevada hearings are important. Even Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., a staunch environmentalist, said he had "some misgivings" about creating a National Park with

Hiking with staff and park rangers at Mt. Wheeler during "Chat with Chic" Tour, 1985.

The wilderness area prohibits the use or viewing by millions of Americans who suffer various handicaps. The restrictions discriminate and preclude the use of or viewing of the lands to a majority of Americans due to age (too young or too old), as well as the millions who are otherwise physically handicapped."

I totally agree! Multiple-use of our land is preferable to providing millions of acres of Nevada for only a relatively small group of hikers who would have the wilderness all to themselves. Keep in mind, under a wilderness designation there would be no roads, no recreational vehicles, no ski lifts, and no eating establishments. We must examine

A COMMENTARY ON THE ISSUES

I feel that those of us who choose to hike and backpack into wilderness areas should not be denied this form of recreation because of misinformation. I feel that some of the statements made by Senator Hecht in his Washington Report are incorrect and my comments will reinforce this opinion.

He states that " The major question is how much of society should be allowed to enjoy the natural beauty of our land." . . . . " before we rush to lock up millions of acres" . . " and close it off to all but a handful of hardy backpackers". He continues with " . . . not just to those physically able to climb mountains and backpack".

There always seems to be a reference to " a handful . . . of hardy backpackers . . ". I feel that the abilities of the hikers should not be used to punish them; after all we are taxpayers too, in fact, a study by the Department of Agriculture which was published in their book "Wilderness Management" shows that the average wilderness visitor is comprised of the following:

1) A party of 2 to 4 people
2) On foot or horseback
3) Fishing and Photography are major interests
4) Most commonly a family group

In addition to the above noted the study also found that the characteristics of wilderness visitors span the full spectrum of age, income, occupation and education. This does not surprise me because I have noticed this on my trips. I believe that the surveys taken by the Forest Service show that the wilderness users are a fair cross-section of Americans and not just a "handful" as was stated.

Senator Hecht then gives a well-spoken quote from a constituent, in part, " A wilderness area is the singularly most . . . . . will be forever prohibited from ever viewing the magnificent lands so classified." . . . "the lands belong to all of the citizens and not just a few. The wilderness area prohibits the use or viewing by millions of Americans who suffer various handicaps ".

I am sure that if anyone wants to find cases of singularly discriminating concepts in our statutory schemes that they look to our handicapped citizens who have fought for years to get access to the bus, the restaurant, the toilet, etc. The handicapped will find any help to their benefit and with our present system they have more than adequate access to mountains and scenery in the national parks. If the handicapped want more wilderness access let them come forward; they can, and will, manage on their own. All they have ever wanted was

a chance to join society; they want equal opportunity in many areas and I am sure that wilderness may be one of those areas.

With regard to the "enormous number of citizens . . forever prohibited from ever viewing the lands so classified." The use of the extreme is not warranted; the same Agriculture Department book contains a breakdown of wilderness use in the United States for the year 1975. The year is not the crucial item, the data is significant. Let me tabulate the wilderness acreage and use by state in the western United States:

State	Acres	Visitor-days
Arizona	673,448	92,300
California	2,026,258	3,351,300
Colorado	945,665	492,200
Idaho	2,655,491	397,300
Montana	2,146,684	395,900
New Mexico	1,018,409	300,200
Oregon	839,946	310,200
Utah	237,177	131,900
Wyoming	2,405,328	393,100
Nevada	64,827	7,300
Grand Total (U.S.)	15,378,290	7,513,400

The immediate point is that we are not dealing with a "handful" because in 1975 (the last year for which I was able to find data) the wilderness usage represented by these numbers indicate that there are millions of people and that Nevada is last in the data. Note that the data is not scattered; that is to say- more wilderness, more users. This indicates that more wilderness would benefit Nevada. Please keep this in mind when you consider the upcoming bill.

Then we have the comment that "We must examine the impact of such restrictions on our ranching, mining, and tourism industries."

The Nevada Occupational Projection 1983-1990 that is published by the Nevada Employment Security Department indicates that in 1983 there were 398,070 people employed in Nevada and of those there were only 5,950 in mining. This states that mining is 1.5% of the employment in Nevada. Further, the State Personal Income-Estimates for 1929-1982 that is published by the U.S. Department of Commerce indicates that for 1982 the non-farm income in Nevada (in millions of dollars) is 7738 while the farm income for the same year is 52. Thus, farm income is 0.67% of the states income. It would appear that the mining and farming interests in Nevada need more help then they can get from any wilderness bills. Besides, what about the price of minerals and commodities on the U.S. and Foreign Exchanges? I agree that we should do what we can for mining and farming in Nevada; but at what expense? must we destroy the forest and kill the fish in the streams? Please, help them, but go one step further and help the rest of the Nevada citizens also. Vote for more wilderness in Nevada.

Editorial
Vol 2 No 12
[Enclosure #2]

Commentary

Bewildered by the Wilderness

To the proponents of the various wilderness bills wending their way through the public shouting process, we'd like to add our own recommendation. We'd like to add to the already suggested areas a section of Clark County bounded on the south by Blue Diamond Road and the Henderson Cutoff; on the east by Sunrise Mountain, on the north by Craig Road and on the west by Rainbow Boulevard.

That would make most of the Las Vegas urban area accessible only to equestrians and back packers. It would be a little inconvenient for a while, but can you imagine what it would do for Metro traffic control? We wouldn't need any.

We've followed the public debate over the various shapes and sizes of wilderness areas for the state, and, frankly, we can't get a bit enthused about any of them.

We've been to most of the proposed wilderness areas, and while they are scenic, they don't hold a candle to a lot of the Pacific northwest which gets so much more rainfall. We suspect that those who are awed by the beauty of the Nevada mountains are smitten only because they are comparing that scenery to what there is to see at lower elevations.

We are extremely reluctant to see vast areas of the state irrevocably shut down to everything except back packers, hikers and horseback riders. There are just too few of them to justify this much of a monopoly.

We think we have some pretty good reasons. Two of the three reasons have been thoroughly aired. Mining and cattle interests are understandably opposed. Sen. Chic Hecht points out that wilderness areas are not accessible to the handicapped. We'd like to add a third reason, and that is that the U.S. Forest Service, or whatever agency is administrating the land, has the authority under existing regulations, to close off portions to all except foot and horse traffic.

The point being, these federal agencies can create wilderness areas now, without all this time wasted on public hearings, and if there is an overpowering reason to change the land status some time in the future, it can be done by an administrative act.

Some discretion can be used in the granting of commercial privileges on these public lands. Mining and grazing would not be totally prohibited.

What is perceived by the public now is that a 100 year old mining camp and mill are quaint and scenic. A modern mine and mill are an eyesore. We think that minerals can be harvested from public lands without blighting a vast area as Kennecott Copper Co. did near Ely with its open pit and slag piles.

National Park status for the Wheeler Peak/Lehman Caves area in eastern White Pine County makes about as much sense as the wilderness areas. Although the area is a refreshing change from the doldrums of high-desert driving, it's hardly on a par with its competition--Yosemite, Yellowstone, Mt. Rainier, Crater Lake, Zion, Bryce and the Grand Canyon. Calling it a National Park would almost be misrepresentation.

It would be better for the tourist to be pleasantly surprised at the scenic beauty surrounding the Lehman Caves National Monument rather than be disappointed in the substandard quality of a Great Basin National Park.

Sorry, but we strongly favor the multiple-use policy of our public lands. It's worked very well, and as the saying goes, "if it ain't broke..."

If there are those with compelling reasons to visit a wilderness area in Nevada, there's one in northern Elko County, near Jarbidge.

But, visiting this area really isn't practical -- it's in such and out of the way location.

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Letters to the editor

Response Published Vol 3 No 2 February 86

To the editor:

Your views on the wilderness proposals have all the holding power of a kitchen sieve. Please let me expand on some of your statements.

1) You state that "those who are awed by the beauty of the Nevada mountains are smitten only because they are comparing that scenery to what there is to see at lower elevations."

The exact point you made is the reason people go into the Sierra Nevada, the Tetons, the Rockies and other areas; it is the mountain scenery compared to the city or the valley. This is not unique to Nevada.

2) " . . . irrevocably shut down to everything except backpackers, hikers and horseback riders."

The proposed areas are roadless. There are no mining or logging roads, no industry, no tourism, a harsh climate, many bare ridges, land above the timberline, a few small streams. Nobody can develop this land; it is too far from the cities. In order to enjoy the scenery you must give up some of the luxuries that make your bottom go so soft. If it is de facto wilderness why not go the extra step and make it de jure wilderness.

3) "Sen. Chic Hecht points out that wilderness areas are not accessable to the handicapped."

Again and again we hear the grand plans to open up the high country of Nevada for the wheel-chair set. What are these plans; why keep them in hiding only to express the need for handicapped access when the wilderness proposals are brought forth? Are we to believe that the state of Nevada is going to build roads in to the Ruby Mountains at a cost of millions of dollars, for the handicapped?

Ask your handicapped friends if they would prefer access to the wilderness or if access to the restaurant, market, church, bus and toilet will do.

4) You state your third reason with the reference to "whatever agency is administrating the land . . . can create wilderness now."

You are implying that the Forest Service can, or should, create a wilderness area without a public hearing and that is the reason for not creating the wilderness by law. If we have such blood-letting with the public hearing can you imagine what would occur if the Forest Service were to "take our lands" without hearings.

5) Your reference to the competitors of the Great Basin National Park is unwarranted. So too is your inference that this "substandard quality" would be a disappointment.

If there is competition among the existing parks, then this country is in a serious state of affairs. The proposed national Park at Wheeler Peak has a magnificent stand of Bristlecone Pines unmatched in the western U. S. because it is accessible; there is a road that climbs to an elevation of 10,000 feet. None of the parks you cited has these fine pine trees; thus, where is the competition? You earlier stated that the areas are beautiful, but in a dramatic change of heart you now say that they are of a substandard quality. Are these the same mountains, or have we changed our views.

6) Your earlier reference to the tongue-in-cheek Las Vegas Wilderness was quite prophetic and unwitting. The wilderness bill being proposed by Sen. Hecht would, in fact, create wilderness areas about the size of the city of Las Vegas. Take a look at your state map, look at the size of Las Vegas, is that enough elbow room for you?

I hope to continue receiving your fine newspaper and will attempt to remedy your views on the wilderness issues as required in the future.

Sincerely,

William de la Garza

Editor's note: Now we know what happened to all of the molehills in Nevada.

Be assured, we'll never mention the subject again.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please.

STATEMENT OF MARY McNEIL

Ms. MCNEIL. Thank you. My name is Mary McNeil. I would like to express my support for a comprehensive wilderness bill such as that proposed by the Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness, 1.5 million acres. I am a student. I am indoors much of the time. Therefore I appreciate being able to visit and enjoy the unspoiled, beautiful areas of our State. Regarding the protection of wildlife, I feel as Dart Anthony does that we should have an effective wilderness bill so that wildlife may remain undisturbed by man's encroachments, roads, motorized vehicles, and pollution.

Also, if we are to preserve enough of Nevada's wilderness areas—by enough I mean so that there is sufficient wildlife in our State so that children may go out and see them. I was on a recent hike, and I was with some children, and we saw a desert bighorn sheep. Everyone was stunned, because we had never seen a wild animal in its wild state like that. It is just such a rarity. If we can preserve enough wildlife so that these are not rare occurrences, we will have done our children a favor, so I believe a comprehensive wilderdness bill is absolutely essential. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let us start over here.

STATEMENT OF WALTER BARBUCK, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BARBUCK. Walter Barbuck, Las Vegas, NV.

Nevada is grossly underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I suggest adding 1,506,735 acres of forested land scattered throughout 21 areas. This, plus the 66,000 acres of current wilderness, would comprise 2.2 percent of Nevada's acreage. This land could then be administered in strict accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This land also belongs to the Nation, not just the State, just as mining and ranching activities cross State lines.

Disapproval of wilderness by Congress means these unfortunate lands could be completely destroyed by misguided interests. We all know how well developed things are back East, how little wilderness there is. Wilderness designation means air quality, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. The U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines mineral surveys have mandated wilderness could be for everyone, the armchair traveler. This includes the infirm who could be enthralled by TV specials. This would enrich the mind, which is what life is all about. Wilderness samples could be experienced in the national parks for those same type travelers.

The pressures on wilderness are awesome. In the last century, there seemed to be enough for everyone. With increased population, this is not so any more. Wilderness can never be permanently locked up. It can be permanently locked out. PLU was discarded when on December 17, 1913, the Raker bill was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson flooding Hachachi Valley in Yosemite National Park. I have never heard of legislation that could or did restore permanently locked out wilderness. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Gentlemen, please continue.

STATEMENT OF ELBERT EDWARDS, BOULDER CITY, NV

Mr. EDWARDS. My name is Elbert Edwards. I am from Boulder City. I will speak in favor and on behalf of Mr. Reid's proposal for the establishment of wilderness areas in the State. I come before you as what I think is one of Nevada's most privileged citizens. I was privileged to be born in Nevada more than 78 years ago. I was privileged to grow up in Nevada at a time when there were fewer than 80,000 people living in Nevada's 110,000 square miles.

It was my privilege to know the State when it was virtual wilderness, an unpolluted creation of an all-wise Creator. My parents, grandparents, and great grandparents came into the area before statehood. They fought to subdue and then made friends and treaties with the Indians and made their homes and living in the wilderness.

As a boy of 15 years of age, it was my privilege to guide then Gov. James G. Scrugham, later Congressman and then U.S. Senator from Nevada, through the inner recesses of what through his efforts became the Cathedral Gorge State Park. It was also my privilege to guide him into the wilderness of what is now Beaver Dam State Park and to collaborate with him in writing his history of Nevada, a narrative of the conquest frontierland. And I have been researching and writing a history of this great State ever since.

It has been my privilege to be able to guide my sons and their children into still unspoiled areas, and to instill in them a love and appreciation for their ancestral and natural heritage.

On a negative note, I have witnessed the abuse of the land, the overgrazing of the range to the point that it will sustain but a small fraction of the livestock that it once did. I have witnessed the development of great scholars left to deface our mountains by the ruthless exploitation of our mineral resources, policies that still persist.

Let us before it is too late take a page from immediate and contemporary history to avoid a repetition of the mistakes previously made. Let us look to the desecration of the Everglades in Florida as an example, at the old dream to ditch, dam, and drain the swampland resources to make commercial real estate, with the resulting loss of far greater value than the disappearance of the water supply, valuable park resources, and the virtual disappearance of endangered species of select mammals, fowls, and reptiles, and at the current frantic effort to reclaim from the exploitation the values that have been lost and of the tremendous cost to local and national governments.

Let us not repeat the obvious mistakes of others until we have reached that point where we have lost our heritage and our birthright for a fleeting mess of pottage.

Thank you.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Since he is a native Nevadan 78 years old, you said? When were you born in Nevada?

Mr. EDWARDS. Seventy-eight years ago, 1907.

Senator HECHT. There are not many around that were born in Nevada.

Mr. EDWARDS. I am a privileged citizen.
Senator HECHT. Give him another hand.
[Applause.]
Senator HECHT. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ANN PITCHFORD, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. PITCHFORD. My name is Ann Pitchford. I live in Las Vegas. I would like to speak about the wilderness from three points of view. I am a second generation Nevadan. My dad was a rancher when I was young. And I spent a lot of time cowboying in the de facto wilderness area near Caliente north of here. I also hiked and fished in many other mountain ranges and canyons across the State. These eventually totalling all but one or two of the now-proposed wilderness areas, and many others, too, I am proud of what Nevada offers compared to other States, and I have taken it for granted up to now.

More recently, I became a pilot, and I have flown over much of the State. From the vantage point of the air, what once seemed vast, remote wilderness areas are really just small forest islands of rugged terrain surrounded by roads. That these areas are so small compared to the surrounding desert was a surprise that emphasizes how precious they are.

Finally, as a mother, I am concerned that my daughter will not have the opportunity to explore these wilderness areas in their untouched form as I did unless they are protected now.

Nevada, as the fastest growing State in the Union, is at a crossroads. It is easy to lose something precious by not taking care of it or recognizing its real value. This must not happen to wilderness in Nevada. For these reasons, I support the Reid bill which proposes 14 wilderness areas in Nevada. I also want to thank Congressman Reid for his efforts to develop a consensus on this issue, and I would like to thank you, Senator Hecht, for holding these hearings.

Senator HECHT. No, you cannot even clap as a compliment for me. No clapping, please.

STATEMENT OF CLARICE GOLDBERY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. GOLDBERY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Clarice Goldbery, a small business owner, mother and 23-year resident of Nevada. I appreciate your consideration of the wilderness issue in the State of Nevada. My comments are brief. When I first came to Las Vegas, the city was much smaller than it is today. At one time, the Maryland Parkway was lined with beautiful trees, and Mount Charleston was practically undeveloped. My son will never see some of the beauty of Nevada that I have seen because of the development and growth which has caused necessary changes.

I would like to think that there will be areas in the Nevada wilderness that he will be able to see some day. I don't want to have to tell him how it used to be. I support the designation of 21 wilderness areas requested by Friends of Nevada Wilderness. These are only 2.1 percent of the total land area in the State of Nevada.

If at some time in the future the population is such that additional development is necessary, then new legislation can be considered, but once the areas are open, the wilderness will be gone

forever. Please support the designation of as much wilderness area as possible. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF CHERI CINKOSKE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. CINKOSKE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Cheri Cinkoske, a self-employed 12-year voting resident of Clark County. I live at 816 Willis Avenue in North Las Vegas, and Pat Little doesn't speak for me.

Thank you for the chance to comment on legislation regarding how much wilderness to set aside in Nevada's national forests for future generations. A number of proposals have been offered, but the only bill currently being considered in the Senate would designate a miniscule amount. This bill is grossly inadequate. I support the proposal by Friends of Nevada Wilderness for 21 areas to be designated, over 1½ million acres of protection.

This amount is a very small percentage of our State. Wilderness is important for many reasons. To me the most vital one is the chance for solitude, the opportunity for spiritual and emotional rejuvenation.

For the past 6 months, due to medical problems, I have been restricted from almost all outdoor opportunities. The hardest thing for me to cope with is the inability to get away to nature. I work out of my own home, which enables me to spend my days escaping the hustle and bustle of most offices.

Nonetheless, I cherish opportunities to hike because the peace of nature far exceeds that in one's home. Being among nature's wonders revitalizes our sense of proportion, helping us evaluate the diverse and often contrary demands we must face.

With Nevada's growing population, it is essential to set aside enough wilderness to meet the need for solitude. If we preserve too small an area, there will not be the room that individuals need to recreate themselves. Each area recommended by Friends of Nevada Wilderness clearly meets the criteria listed in the Wilderness Act.

As for the argument that the Wilderness Act discriminates against the handicapped or elderly, since when did every spot on Earth have to be accessible to each and every person? Should there be an elevator or road to the top of Mount Everest just so that everyone can get there? What does that do to the training and effort undergone by those who have attempted to climb to the top and those who have perished in the attempt? And even if there were a road, what about heart patients and others who can't ascend to that elevation? Should we dynamite Mount Everest and bring it down to an elevation all can reach? Is the lowest common denominator truly a worthy goal?

Those of us requesting designation of a significant portion of Nevada as wilderness are asking Congress to recognize that different lands are appropriate for different uses, and that Nevada has beautiful lands just as worthy of wilderness designation as other States. Please amend your bill to include a much more generous and much fairer amount of wilderness. Future generations will thank you, as will we.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Cinkoske follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHERI CINKOSKE
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
February 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Cheri Cinkoske, a self-employed, 12-year voting resident of Clark County. I reside at 816 Lillis Ave., N. Las Vegas.

I would like to thank you for offering me the chance to comment today on this pending legislation.

The issue before us is how much wilderness to set aside in Nevada's National Forests for future generations. A number of proposals have been offered, but the only bill currently being considered in the Senate is one which would designate a miniscule amount, less than 137,000 acres. I feel that this bill is grossly inadequate.

I support the proposal by Friends of Nevada Wilderness for 21 areas to be designated, including over 1 1/2 million acres. This amount is a small percentage of our state, certainly not too much to preserve for the future.

Wilderness is important for many reasons--habitat preservation, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, environmental education, archeological and other scientific research, etc. etc.--and I'm sure others will be discussing many of these.

To me the most vital issue is the chance for solitude, the opportunity for spiritual and emotional rejuvenation. For the past six months, due to medical problems, I have been restricted

from almost all outdoor opportunities. The hardest thing for me to cope with has been the inability to get away--not just from the stresses of city living, but to nature.

I work for myself and out of my own home, which enables me to spend my days in relative peace and quiet, listening to a radio station of my own choosing, knowing that the phone calls are for me (not hearing all the rings for co-workers), escaping the hustle and bustle of most offices. Nonetheless, I cherish the opportunities to hike on the weekends, because the peace and quiet of nature far exceed that in one's home. Being among nature's wonders revitalizes our sense of proportion, helping us to correctly evaluate the diverse and often contrary demands each of us must face. The mind is cleared of "busy-ness" and suddenly many of the solutions we've been seeking appear.

With Nevada's growing population, it is essential to set aside enough wilderness to meet the solitude needs of ourselves and future generations. If we preserve too small an area, there will not be the room that individuals need to re-create themselves. Each of the 21 areas recommended by Friends of Nevada Wilderness clearly meets the criteria listed in the Wilderness Act and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Finally, I must attempt to refute the often-heard criticism that wilderness designation discriminates against the handicapped and/or elderly. Since when did every spot on earth have to be accessible to each and every person? Should there be an elevator or a road to the top of Mt. Everest just so "everyone" can get there? What does that do to the training and effort undergone by

those who have attempted to climb to the top--and those who have perished in the attempt? And even if there were a road, what about heart patients and others who could not ascend to that elevation? Should we dynamite Mt. Everest and bring it down to an elevation that all can reach? Is the lowest common denominator truly a worthy goal?

Those of us who are requesting designation of a significant portion of Nevada (but still a very small portion) as wilderness are asking Congress to recognize that different lands are appropriate for different uses and that Nevada has beautiful lands just as worthy of wilderness designation as the lands already so designated in other states. Please amend your bill to include a much more generous, a much fairer, amount of wilderness. Future generations will thank you, as will we.

Senator HECHT. I have no questions for this panel. Let us go right on, because our time is running.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel No. 8. Leonard Rice, George Baxter, Lance Devis, Chris Barnard, Gene Davis, and Bob Wright.

Panel No. 9 can come down and sit in the front row. James Johnston, Jack Lowe, Dean Saylor, Cathy French, Scott Carroll, Buddy Weinfeld, and Liza Vazana.

Senator HECHT. The gentleman on the far end. Do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF CHRIS BARNARD, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BARNARD. Thank you, Senator. My name is Chris Barnard. I have lived in Nevada my whole life. My parents homesteaded in Esmeralda County in 1951. I grew up there on a ranch and raised cattle with my father. During the years growing up, I was privileged to camp and explore with my folks many of the areas of central Nevada. I took for granted that those areas would remain a pristine area for the rest of my life.

After spending the last 15 years traveling, going to college, and seeing different parts of the world, I have realized there is a fallacy in that. They will not remain in their natural condition unless we do something to protect them or set them aside.

Over the years, I have been back to many of the areas that I had earlier visited, and I have found changes directly related to the population growth. Most changes have not been for the betterment of the area. The ranchers back in my home area feel there is a them-versus-us attitude. They need to defend their piece of the world for their use. They do not realize they can have the ranch and wilderness, too. The wilderness designation will preserve the wild country and also allow them to continue their present use of that range.

As a society, we have geared ourselves to use and misuse of our resources on this very special one-of-a-kind Earth. I feel very strongly that as our awareness of this Earth and its use of it increases, we must dedicate ourselves to the preservation rather than immediate exploitation.

Our society, with all this technology, present and future, can create many new approaches to the production of beef and its mineral needs, but it can never create new wilderness. We need the solitude and peace of nature for recreation, for which many people means recreation, something that is becoming more and more necessary in our fast moving world.

Therefore, I oppose Senate bill 722, and urge the subcommittee to add as many of the recommended areas to their Nevada wilderness bill as their consciences will allow. I want more wilderness for Nevada, for my children, and for Mother Earth herself.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Barnard follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHRIS BARNARD, BUSINESSMAN,
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATERS
ON S. 722
IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - FEBRUARY 14, 1986

My name is Chris Barnard. I have lived in Nevada my whole life. My parents homesteaded in Esmeralda County in 1951. I grew up there on a ranch where we raised cattle and alfalfa. During the years of growing up, I was privileged to camp in many of the mountains of Central Nevada. I took for granted that the pristine mountain domain would always be there.

Going to college and travelling and living in urban areas for the last 15 years, I've begun to realize the fallacy of believing those lands will always be there in their natural condition. Over the years, I've been back to many areas in the west and have found changes directly related to the population growth in our society.

Ranchers back in my home area feel that there is a "them versus us" attitude, and they need to defend their piece of the world for their use. They don't realize they can have their ranching and wilderness, too. They need to understand that wilderness designation will preserve the wild country and will also allow ranchers to continue their present use of that range.

As a society we have geared ourselves toward the use and misuse of our resources on this very special, one-of-a-kind earth. I feel very strongly that as our awareness of this Earth and its use increases, we must dedicate ourselves to preservation rather than immediate exploitation.

Our society can create many new approaches to the production of beef, but it can't create new wilderness.

We need the solitude and peace of nature for recreation, which for many people means re-creation, something that is becoming more and more necessary in our fast-moving world.

Therefore, I oppose Senate Bill 722, and urge this Subcommittee to add as many of the recommended areas to their Nevada wilderness bill as their consciences will allow. I want more wilderness for Nevada and for my children.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF LANCE DEVIS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DEVIS. My name is Lance Devis. I live in Las Vegas. I have a small family cabin in Mount Charleston. I work at Spring Mountain Youth Camp of Mount Charleston whom I do not represent. Senator, as a child I learned a lesson from my mother, and that was that we have responsibilities, a responsibility to share the money we earned, giving 10 percent. We have a responsibility to save 10 percent. That lesson I learned the hard way. I am asking the State of Nevada be allowed to save small, just 2 percent of our State, so we don't have to learn the hard way.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GENE DAVIS, GRASSMERE, ID

Mr. DAVIS. My name is Gene Davis, and I am from Idaho. I am president and general manager of the Bruno Cattle Co. of Bruno, ID, which is located about 64½ miles north of the line of the State of Nevada. You may ask, many in this audience, why I, an Idahoan, would be here today giving testimony regarding your affairs, wilderness.

I am here at the request of some of my good cowboy friends in your State of Nevada, and I guess I am here because we have experienced the wilderness in my immediate area. We have experienced it in north Idaho under the Forest Service, some of that wilderness having been designated and operated under the wilderness area since 1970, 1971.

We know what has happened in Idaho in regard to grazing rights and the succession of rights as we knew them in years past in that area. We know what has happened to some of the logging companies, the timber companies up there in Potlatch Forest, Boise Cascade Co.

We know the inhibitions that have been placed before them in going about the business of production that we know as a normal thing. There are so many things that I would like to talk about, but I think I should center on one thing of importance which I don't think has been discussed here today.

And I have personal experience on this. In our enterprise we run cows and calves. It is a feedlot operation. We do business with, to the extent of, I guess, a few thousand head of cattle each year, with some here in Nevada, agricultural people, but we also, along with our own cow and calf operation, do an extensive job of planting some pipe every year out on that desert of yours and mine, and it is yours and mine, and I see it that way, but we spend our own money to do that. We are glad to do it when we have those dollars available.

What has happened in the last year is, a year ago I gave up on a project of 4½ miles because of the restriction on replacement of the water trough, one of the troughs being 2 miles from a designated wilderness area, another trough 6 miles, airline miles, 12 miles by road. The visual aspect of these water troughs to me, ladies and gentlemen, this is a buffer zone, and to me and to us in that area it

is very real. And the other restrictions that are placed on maintenance of fence and this sort of thing, in this, a wilderness study area, not in the current wilderness. It is in the interim planning process, being managed that way, but it is much, much more costly in a cattle operation to operate in that area of a WSA.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Bob.

STATEMENT OF BOB WRIGHT

Mr. WRIGHT. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you and offer my comments on this most important matter, the determining of wilderness area on four service lands. As you know, other land managing agencies of the Federal Government are also in the process of determining which lands under their jurisdiction meet wilderness criteria.

It is my understanding that the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service will in the future be identifying these areas for the Congress to consider. The Bureau of Land Management which manages the largest number of acres in Nevada have identified about 72 areas for further study to find out if they meet wilderness criteria.

Responsible Bureau of Land Management personnel estimate that about one-third of these 72 areas or 21 areas could be recommended for wilderness. The other two land managing agencies would undoutedly have lesser amounts of land recommended for wilderness.

For the Congress to consider wilderness bills for each land managing agency leaves much to be desired. It is impossible at this time to determine the grand total of all the wilderness acres that Nevada will eventually have. It would seem to be much more logical to combine all the proposed wilderness areas from all the land managing agencies into one wilderness bill the grand total of the acres to be designated and then be known to everyone concerned. The location of the areas would also be determined to see if they equitably are distributed around the State. It would also be of benefit to the Congress to consider one wilderness bill eliminating many hearings, et cetera, that would have to held with four separate bills.

You should seriously consider foregoing any action on forest service wilderness areas until the other agencies have made their selections known. Then a single wilderness bill designating all the areas in Nevada could be more logically considered by the Congress. If you or your colleagues in the Congress feel that you cannot wait for the other land managing agencies, then I feel strongly that the bill that you have introduced should meet the action of the Congress.

As you know, Senator, water is very central to the State of Nevada. Recently in the State of Colorado a lawsuit was filed to determine if water which arises in wilderness areas belongs to the Federal Government. A determination of the lawsuit could have far-reaching effects on State water rights. Water rights which would have been appropriated for over 100 years could be effective-

ly wiped out if court action determines that such water does actually belong to the Federal Government.

It is of the utmost importance that any wilderness legislation contain guarantees that protect the water for the future wellbeing of Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Bob.

I have no questions of the panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel No. 9, James Johnston, Jack Lowe, Dean Saylor, Cathy French, Scott Carroll, Buddy Weinfeld, and Liza Vazana. The two members of panel 10 will try to join them right up here on the witness stand. I am calling panel 10 now. Janice Reid, Gail Harris, Mahlon Edward, Harry Adams, Selig Baws, Felicia Campbell, Marion Jane Wilson, and Carol Hunter.

STATEMENT OF BUDDY H. WEINFELD, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. WEINFELD. Thank you, Senator Hecht, for permitting me to begin. My name is Buddy H. Weinfeld. I am speaking as a concerned citizen. I have a brief statement, and it reads:

I am for a sensible and realistic wilderness bill, not just for today but well into our next century. That is why I strongly support and urge that Congress pass the Nevada wilderness bill introduced and sponsored by Senators Paul Laxalt, Chic Hecht, and Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich.

Remember, we are dealing with 90 percent of the State of Nevada owned and controlled by some Federal Government agency. It is imperative for those in Congress to exercise good, sound judgment before rushing in and permanently locking up hundreds of thousands of acres in Nevada.

I am sure most citizens of Nevada will agree, especially once they understand the difference between a scenic national park and a roadless wilderness area. Only a handful of people can backpack in for miles to see and enjoy the pristine wilderness of Nevada. Finally, Congress must keep in mind that many of our senior citizens, and the disabled and handicapped citizens are also entitled to see and enjoy scenic areas in Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Buddy. Do you want to start off?

STATEMENT OF LIZA VAZANA, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. VAZANA. My name is Liza Vazana. It is misspelled in the list there. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today. I would like you to know my concern about the wilderness as a private citizen.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Please talk into the mike. We will start you over again.

Ms. VAZANA. My name is Liza Vazana. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak here today. I am a resident of Nevada and I am a concerned private citizen.

We need desperately to protect one of our crucial freedoms of the 20th century. We have the responsibility of serving and protecting it not only for ourselves but for my children, your children, and

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those who presently may not be able to experience it for themselves or who have yet to comprehend its significance. I refer to the freedom of solitude, peace, and the grandeur of experiencing Nevada's wilderness.

The struggle for freedom 200 years ago resulted in the Revolutionary War and the Boston Tea Party. A hundred years ago, it was the struggle for the freedom of slaves and the Civil War was the result. A new struggle and most precious struggle for freedom is emerging—the freedom and security of knowing that we will all be able to experience nature's majesty today and tomorrow.

I am originally from southern California and know what it's like and how difficult it is now to get to a wilderness area alone. You sometimes have to make reservations 1 year in advance, and at that you are still next to someone who's got a generator going, their offroad vehicle. It is quite, quite noisy. We have the same problem here with Mount Charleston.

As lovely as it is, it is conveniently close to Las Vegas and can be appreciated as an access and escape from smoke-filled casinos and office buildings. Unfortunately, as in California, mere numbers of people make it possible to enjoy only a glimpse of the solitude which we seem to be in need of. We still hear motorcycles, trucks, generators, and air traffic. We still smell car and truck exhaust. We still see garbage left by those who are used to the convenience of city sanitation. And we still see vandalism done by those who have truly lost their perspective.

My point here is that Mount Charleston has given us a clear look into the future and it's pleading with us to take heed to the lessons of the protection of our natural resources. This is our second chance, so to speak. How can we as businessmen and women, as cattle ranchers and mining operators, as military missile testers, dare to deny ourselves and others the mere 1 percent of land at issue in H.R. 3302?

What are we willing to do to repair and replace damages incurred by the special interests, the fouled water, and the scarred lands? It is our responsibility to regain and maintain our perspective. Long after money finishes dancing in the footlights, nature will begin to repair itself slowly but surely, regardless of the negligence and abuse we make it suffer.

Why not take the step now to say that at least 1 percent of our land will not have to endure those damages? Senator Hecht, I would like to see you take the reins in this direction by establishing, for example, the Chic Hecht visitor's center in Ely, much in the same vein as Allan Bible's visitor center—your own little Mount Rushmore.

I thank you for your time and attention and hope you will take heed to what I and others in favor of H.R. 3302 have said here today.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for testifying.

Next?

STATEMENT OF CAROL HUNTER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. HUNTER. My name is Carol Hunter. I live in Las Vegas, and I am speaking today on behalf of Soroptimist International of Las

Vegas Valley. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of open space in Nevada.

My appreciation for Nevada's wilderness areas comes from experience. As a native Nevadan, I have traveled throughout the State. I was employed for more than 10 years in the field of outdoor recreation in Nevada. My work took me into many of Nevada's remote areas. I speak today in opposition to Senate bill 722.

I support the position of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness—a commitment to preservation of 21 unique, roadless areas. The 21 areas proposed still amount to less than one-half of the 3.5 million acres that are eligible for wilderness in Nevada. The four areas in S. 722 only barely touch the immense treasures to be found in Nevada's wild lands.

As I reflect on my travels throughout the State, I am shocked by the degradation of once primitive areas that has occurred just in my own lifetime. We must make a strong commitment to the real Nevada, represented so well by the Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, Wheeler Peak, Mount Jefferson, and the 17 other areas proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Critics state that wilderness will permanently lock up valuable mining and fossil fuel resources. However, in H.R. 3302, as amended, all valid mining claims are preserved. Mineralized and mineral potential areas and those with oil and gas potential are excluded. Opponents also argue that livestock grazing—a rich Nevada tradition—will cease. Again, not true. Existing grazing uses are grandfathered in.

The Senate proposal for 137,000 acres of wilderness is woefully inadequate. Wilderness designation—the preservation of our natural areas—is too important to be shortchanged. It is not enough to think that areas that have remained as wilderness up to this point will continue to remain wild. Nor can we expect wilderness to survive if motorized equipment, road building, and speculative mining operations are permitted.

Recently, while trying to locate a street on a Las Vegas city map, I found Wilderness Avenue. Imagine wilderness right here in the middle of Las Vegas. My amusement was soon replaced with a genuine concern that if our Nevada representatives do not commit to a meaningful wilderness proposal this may well be the only wilderness future generations will know.

Now is the time to take decisive action to preserve the real Nevada. Wilderness is to important an issue to be polarized between political parties. I encourage the members of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation to set aside partisan politics, to work with their colleagues of either party in the House of Represenatives to achieve a meaningful wilderness bill for Nevada.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF C. GAIL HARRIS, JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Gail Harris, a lifelong resident of Nevada, born in Las Vegas,

where I now live and work in the real estate firm founded by my father, George Earley Harris, a well-known educator who spent over a half century promoting a high quality of life for the citizens of Nevada.

I am speaking today on behalf of the Joint Study Committee on the Environment, a coalition of civic-minded organizations sponsored by the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce looking for environmentally sound solutions to flood control problems in the Las Vegas Valley. It is now all too apparent that flood damage in the Las Vegas Valley has been exacerbated by shortsighted encroachment on the floodways, a historic misuse of land for individual profits, either through ignorance or unconcern for the eventual consequences of unsuitable development in sensitive drainage areas. The whole population must now bear the economic cost of subsidizing the profits of these few, and that has led to the present crisis in flood and erosion.

It is with that hindsight that we urge upon you the spirit of the Public Land Law Review Commission Act, which in the 1960's declared that the public lands of the United States should best meet the present and future needs of the American people.

We believe that not only the present but especially the future needs of the American people are not being considered by this shortsighted encroachment of our wilderness lands which is being proposed by Senate bill 722. With a possible 113 roadless areas of national forest land which could be protected, to protect only 4, two-tenths of 1 percent of the area of the State, is to sell our birthright. These lands should be held in trust for future Americans. We Nevadans no more hold title to these lands within our borders than do the South Dakotans hold title to Mount Rushmore.

These high mountainous wilderness areas within the boundaries of our State contain our most precious natural resource—the headwaters of our streams and the watershed of a fragile desert ecosystem. This primary resource can be protected now by inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or divided as the spoils of a political war for the profittakers of the land.

This land belongs to all Americans in trust and can only be preserved for them by those statesmen in the Congress who recognize that the profits to be made now if these wilderness lands are exploited can never offset the damage after the ephemeral fruit of exploitation is gone. Wilderness can never be restored, only preserved. We who are suffering the consequences——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Kind of summarize.

Ms. HARRIS. One sentence. We who are suffering the consequences now in the Las Vegas Valley of the environmental mismanagement of our natural floodways urge you to consider carefully the future needs rather than the present whims of the American people when you make decisions which will so seriously affect future generations.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Harris follows:]

STATEMENT OF C. GAIL HARRIS, REPRESENTING
THE JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATERS
FIELD HEARING
S722
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA FEBRUARY 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Gail Harris, a lifelong resident of Nevada, born in Las Vegas, where I now live and work in the Real Estate firm founded by my father, George Earley Harris, a well known educator who spent over a half century promoting a high quality of life for the citizens of Nevada.

I am appearing before you today on behalf of the Joint Study Committee on the Environment — a coalition of civic-minded organizations, sponsored by the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, which was formed to provide information to concerned southern Nevadans on aesthetic and environmentally sound solutions to flood control problems in their valley. It is now all too apparent that flood damage in the Las Vegas valley has been exacerbated by short-sighted encroachment on the floodways. The historic misuse of land for individual profits, either through ignorance or unconcern for the eventual consequences of unsuitable development in sensitive drainage areas, has led to the present crisis where flood and erosion threatens future development in the most populous area of the state. The whole population must now bear the economic cost by subsidizing the profits of a few.

It is with that hindsight, that we urge upon you the spirit of the Public Land Law Review Commission Act which in the 1960's declared that "the public lands of the United States shall be (a)retained and managed or (b) disposed of, all in a manner to provide the maximum benefits for the general public" and that those so retained shall be managed in "the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people".

We believe that not only the present, but especially, the future needs of the American people are not being considered by this shortsighted encroachment of our wilderness lands which Senator Hecht is proposing. With a possible 113 roadless areas of National Forest Land which could be protected, to seek Wilderness protection for only four (0.2% of the area of the state) is to sell our birthright for a mess of potage. These lands should be held in trust for future Americans — as we Nevadans no more hold title to these lands within our borders than the South Dakotans hold title to Mount Rushmore.

If long range zoning plans for development of the Las Vegas valley had included a firm commitment to environmental management of natural floodways, we would not now be spending excessive funds and energy trying to patch together an inadequate flood protection system and bemoaning the loss to persent and future residents of the now destroyed natural springs and oaises which once formed parts of the natural drainage system of the valley. In their natural or enhanced state they could have been utilized as parks and recreational areas in the urban area while maintaining their prime function as floodwater channels and retention basins.

These high, mountainous wilderness areas within the boundries of our state contain our most precious natural resource: the headwaters of our streams and the watershed of a fragile desert ecosystem. This primary resource can be protected now by inclussion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or divided as the spoils of political war by the profit takers in the land. This land belongs to all Americans in trust and can only be preserved for them by those statesmen in the Congress who recognize that the profits to be made now if these wilderness lands are exploited can never offset the damage after the ephemeral fruit of exploitation is gone.

Wilderness can never be restored, only preserved! We who are suffering the consequences of the environmental mismanagement of our natural floodways, urge you to consider carefully the future needs rather than the present whims of the American people when you make the decision which will so seriously affect future generations.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

We are going to now have another 5-minute break, and then when we come back we will start in with panel 11.

[A recess was taken.]

Senator HECHT. Please take your seats. We are going to resume.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel 11—Dan Earnest, Jim Shaw, Kale Clawson, Terry Clawson, K.J. Howe, Vickie McDevitt, and Marion J. Wilson, who was on panel 10 and was out of the room—and Marion J. and the younger Wilson will come up and take the spot.

Senator HECHT. I hear young Wilson crying. Does the baby want more or less? We will start with you. After you give your testimony, you can feel free to do whatever you may feel more comfortable doing.

STATEMENT OF MARIAN J. WILSON, HENDERSON, NV

Ms. WILSON. My name is Marian Wilson from Henderson, NV. I am speaking on behalf of myself as a 20-year resident of Las Vegas, and as a new mother.

As a child, I remember my family traveling throughout Nevada and exploring the back countries, and it was a real big impact on my growing up being able to experience the grand forests and the clear mountain streams and learning about the wildlife here and the trees and beavers and things like that. And as an adult I have continued to enjoy the Nevada wilderness and outdoors and have found that it is a refuge for my soul at times when the stress of the job and home and everything like that have built up.

And my parents also enjoy the wilderness as they reached their late 60's. They still enjoy going out and spending time in the wilderness. And my 10-day-old baby and I here would hope that you would sponsor enough wilderness in the proposed H.R. 3302 to guarantee that him and his children will be able to enjoy the wilderness and allow them the opportunity in the future to maybe use this land in whatever means they might see fit at that time.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF VICKIE McDEVITT, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. MCDEVITT. My name is Vickie McDevitt. I am a resident of Las Vegas, NV. I am speaking in favor of your bill, Senator Hecht. I am opposed to Congressman Reid's bill. I would just as soon see no wilderness, but I would like to settle for Senate bill 722.

I would like to say that the prowilderness people seem to be very concerned with the polluting of our lands, which I am also. I wonder if they are also concerned with the polluting of the air. Do they ride in automobiles, fly in airplanes, or do they walk to their wilderness areas? I spoke to about 25 people prior to coming to this meeting within about the last week. None of these people had an opinion prior to me speaking to them on the wilderness bill.

A couple of them, after my telling them what the wilderness property would do the State of Nevada, mentioned problems they had concerning these types of things. One of them told me that there were some trees that were infected with insects up on Mount

Charleston, I believe—I do not know exactly where it was, but it was here in Nevada—and they were given the opportunity to go in and cut these trees down and use it for firewood so they could get these insects out of the area.

Consequently, they had so many restrictions in going in and cutting these trees down that they could not afford to do it. It was too expensive. So they decided to let the Government chop their own trees down.

Also, another one of the women I spoke to recently moved here from Oregon. In Oregon she was able to, as a young child, go tubing in a river that was near her home, and because of restrictions recently that have been put on that area they have to have a permit to go tubing in this river any more, and they only allow so many people in the area at a time, apparently, and they have to wait for quite a while to obtain this permit.

I'd also like to say that as a camper myself we have camped in the Mount Charleston area called Stimson for a number of years, and the man who owned the property wanted it to stay wilderness and he would not allow us to build. It was used for girls' camping. He would not allow us to build permanent fireplaces so that rocks could be permanently put around the fire areas. Consequently, fires have been built all over that area now and the ground is quite gray because of the fires that have been built in different areas.

I would say because Nevada is such a growing area that we need to have areas that can be put into campgrounds instead of just a wilderness area where nothing can be done there, as people will build their campfires all over, if that is permitted. I don't know if it is for sure in a wilderness area.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF DONALD F. EARNEST, CHIEF GEOLOGIST, SUNSHINE MINING CO., SILVER PEAK, NV

Mr. EARNEST. Thank you, Senator Hecht and members of the panel. My name is Donald Earnest and I am chief geologist for the Sunshine Mining Co. of Silver Peak, NV, where Sunshine has a 1,000-ton-per-day underground silver mine that employs about 100 people. The Sunshine Mining Co. strongly endorses your bill, S. 722, as the only currently proposed wilderness legislation which not only recognizes mining's importance to the State of Nevada but also recognizes who pays the full price for locking up some wilderness areas that contain mineral potential.

Wilderness advocates such as John Seiberling, a powerful Ohio Congressman, contend that mining's importance to rural Nevada is rather insignificant. During his helicopter tour of Nevada in the summer of 1985, the Congressman chastized us rural Nevadans for selfishly guarding our own interests and for not endorsing the preservation of as much wilderness as possible for the benefit of future generations.

However, upon examining the economic facts of the issue, it is obvious to us rural Nevadans that we have the most to lose. The ultimate consequence of this issue will impact not only our current

employment but also opportunities for our children to live and work in their native State.

The Esmeralda County tax assessor for Sunshine's operations reports that over 50 percent of the county tax revenue in 1985 was provided by mining operations. According to a 1983 study by the University of Nevada-Reno's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, mining accounted for 58 percent of the nonagricultural employment in Esmeralda County, which amounted to a 73-percent share of the nonagricultural payroll between the years 1969 and 1981.

Similar figures exist for other rural counties for the same period: Eureka County, where mining encompassed 78 percent of total employment and 82 percent of nonagricultural payrolls; Lander County, 58 percent and 72 percent, respectively; Storey County, 36 percent and 40 percent, respectively. Elko County is expected to post increases in its figures for 1984 and 1985, largely because of Freeport-McMoRan's Jerritt Canyon operations.

Rural Nevadans benefit from mining's presence in their counties in many ways not reflected in employment and tax statistics. Since 1980, Esmeralda County and the town of Silver Peak have been providing Sunshine Mining Co., not only low-cost company housing for its employees where none existed before, but also, in conjunction with Foote Mineral Co., maintenance of the town swimming pool, badly needed improvements to the town water system, and support for the local EMT's and ambulance services.

As a result of the development of Sunshine's operations, all Silver Peak residents now enjoy improvements in power service. It is doubtful any town businesses could exist without the two mining operations' presence.

Mining-related benefits of this type are not unique to Esmeralda County. In neighboring Nye County, the town of Tonopah now enjoys a greatly improved water system, over $5 million worth of community improvements, which include parks, softball fields, and a fitness center—all provided by Anaconda Minerals' Nevada Moly operations. The town of Round Mountain looks forward to the construction of a swimming pool this summer, all provided by Smoky Valley Mining's Round Mountain operations. Such a list can go on at great length.

In summary, the facts presented here support what is known to all rural Nevadans—and that is, mining is the major means of support for the rural counties.

Senator HECHT. Please summarize.

Mr. EARNEST. The adoption of wilderness legislation which includes areas with documented mineral potential will force rural Nevadans to pay the full and total price for preservation of such areas.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Earnest follows:]

NEVADA HEARINGS - SENATE BILL S722
FEBRUARY 14, 1986
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

TESTIMONY OF: DONALD F. EARNEST
CHIEF GEOLOGIST
SUNSHINE MINING COMPANY
P.O. BOX 97
SILVER PEAK, NEVADA 89047

DURING THE RECENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION COVERING FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS AREAS IN NEVADA, MUCH HAS BEEN SAID CONCERNING THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF MINING TO THE GENERAL ECONOMIES OF THE STATE'S RURAL COUNTIES. WILDERNESS ADVOCATES SUCH AS JOHN SEIBERLING, THE POWERFUL OHIO CONGRESSMAN, CONTEND THAT MINING'S IMPORTANCE TO RURAL NEVADA IS RATHER INSIGNIFICANT. DURING HIS VISIT TO NEVADA IN 1985, THE CONGRESSMAN CHASTISED RURAL NEVADANS FOR SELFISHLY GUARDING THEIR OWN "INTERESTS" AND FOR NOT ENDORSING THE PRESERVATION OF AS MUCH WILDERNESS AS POSSIBLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. HOWEVER, UPON EXAMINING THE ECONOMIC FACTS OF THE ISSUE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT RURAL NEVADANS HAVE THE MOST TO LOSE. THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS ISSUE WILL IMPACT NOT ONLY THEIR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT, BUT ALSO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO LIVE AND WORK IN THEIR NATIVE STATE.

THE ESMERALDA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR REPORTS THAT OVER 50% OF THE COUNTY TAX REVENUE IN 1985 WAS PROVIDED BY MINING OPERATIONS. ACCORDING TO A 1983 STUDY BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO'S BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH, MINING ACCOUNTED FOR 58% OF THE NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN ESMERALDA COUNTY WHICH AMOUNTED TO A 73% SHARE OF THE NON-AGRICULTURAL PAYROLL BETWEEN 1969 AND 1981. SIMILAR FIGURES EXIST FOR OTHER RURAL COUNTIES FOR THE SAME PERIOD: EUREKA COUNTY, WHERE MINING ENCOMPASSED 78% NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AND 82% OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PAYROLLS; LANDER COUNTY: 58% AND 72% RESPECTIVELY; STOREY COUNTY: 36% AND 40%, RESPECTIVELY. ELKO COUNTY IS EXPECTED TO POST INCREASES IN ITS FIGURES FOR 1984 AND 1985, LARGELY BECAUSE OF FREEPORT-MCMORAN'S

JERRITT CANYON OPERATIONS.

RURAL NEVADANS BENEFIT FROM MINING'S PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTIES IN MANY WAYS NOT REFLECTED IN EMPLOYMENT AND TAX STATISTICS. SINCE 1980, ESMERALDA COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF SILVER PEAK HAVE SEEN SUNSHINE MINING COMPANY PROVIDE NOT ONLY LOW COST COMPANY HOUSING FOR ITS EMPLOYEES, BUT ALSO (IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOOTE MINERAL COMPANY) MAINTENACE OF THE TOWN SWIMMING POOL, BADLY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN WATER SYSTEM, AND SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL EMT'S AND AMBULANCE SERVICE. AS A RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUNSHINE'S OPERATIONS, ALL SILVER PEAK RESIDENTS NOW ENJOY IMPROVEMENTS IN POWER SERVICE. IT'S DOUBTFUL ANY TOWN BUSINESSES COULD EXIST WITHOUT THE 2 MINING OPERATIONS.

MINING-RELATED BENEFITS OF THIS TYPE ARE NOT UNIQUE TO ESMERALDA COUNTY. IN NEIGHBORING NYE COUNTY, THE TOWN OF TONOPAH NOW ENJOYS A GREATLY IMPROVED WATER SYSTEM, OVER $5,000,000 WORTH COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING PARKS, SOFTBALL FIELDS, AND A FITNESS CENTER, ALL PROVIDED BY ANANCONDA MINERALS' NEVADA MOLY OPERATIONS. THE TOWN OF ROUND MOUNTAIN HAS A PARK AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWIMMING POOL THIS SUMMER, ALL PROVIDED BY SMOKY VALLEY MINING'S ROUND MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS. SUCH A LIST CAN GO ON AT GREAT LENGTH.

IN SUMMARY, THE FACTS PRESENTED HERE SUPPORT WHAT IS KNOWN TO ALL RURAL NEVADANS - MINING IS THE MAJOR MEANS OF SUPPORT FOR THE RURAL COUNTIES. THE ADOPTION OF WILDERNESS LEGISLATION WHICH INCLUDES AREAS WITH MINERAL POTENTIAL WILL FORCE RURAL NEVADANS TO PAY THE FULL AND TOTAL PRICE FOR PRESERVATION OF SUCH AREAS. ONE CAN IMAGINE THE CRIES OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION SHOULD ONE DAY AN AVID WILDERNESS ADVOCATE BE FORCED VIA CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO FORFEIT HIS JOB IN THE CITY IN THE NAME OF WILDERNESS PRESERVATION.

SUNSHINE MINING COMPANY STRONGLY ENDORSES SENATE BILL S722 AS THE ONLY CURRENTLY PROPOSED WILDERNESS LEGISLATION WHICH RECOGNIZES MINING'S IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE OF NEVADA.

STATEMENT OF TERRY CLAWSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. CLAWSON. Thank you, Senator, for allowing us to come here and testify today. To begin with, let me say I support——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Please identify yourself.

Ms. CLAWSON. I am Terry Clawson from Las Vegas. I am an 8-year resident here. I do support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill. Second, I do object to Eastern Senators making a flying trip over this State and then tell us where to put our wilderness. I do not think that that is the way it should be done. I think the people of Nevada should be the ones to say where it will be.

At present the Federal Government controls over 84 percent of this State. They have either limited or restricted access to most of that. If it becomes a wilderness area, 99 percent of us will not be able to use it. You can't go in unless you are either a backpacker or a horseback rider. I love to horseback ride, but I am not really up to the backpacking, and I don't think I could get a wheelchair across the things that lay in the road.

So I just don't think it's fair to close off everything, every mountaintop so that we cannot use them. We spent 30 years on the Montana-Idaho border, and we watched some of those areas that became wilderness areas. They completely shut out the people from using the national forest, enjoying it in any respect. The wilderness area managers are like any other Government agency, like the IRS. They make rulings. They are not laws, but they are enforced as if they were.

Each new administration makes new rulings, sometimes taking more acreage or adding buffer zones. Eventually, the original designated area is twice or three times as big as it originally started, and if private business or land is in the way, it is just too bad; you are put out of business.

We are also familiar with the Colorado area around Bayfield, where coyotes run uncontrolled, and they come on private land. They kill cattle and sheep, pet animals in people's own back yards or front yards, and even at one point killed a small child. Montana also has its share of coyote problems. Outside the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, the cattle ranchers have been put out of business because of coyotes, and they do live and are protected in the wilderness area. Now, they have a sign as you come out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. It says: "Eat lamb; 20 million coyotes can't be wrong."

So I think somebody should think about those things. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF KALE CLAWSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. CLAWSON. Good afternoon, Senator Hecht. I am Kale Clawson. I think that anything else here that could be said pro or con would be redundant. I am very much against any additional land that would be locked away in the wilderness area; therefore, I favor yours and Vucanovich's bill.

There is one thing I would like to mention, though—that I don't understand how so many people in favor of wilderness have the mistaken idea that they are saving anything for their children. They won't be able to use it themselves. Their children won't be

able to use it except if they can walk that far. I think it's very unfair to the people that can't walk that far or don't want to walk that far.

As far as I am concerned, the wilderness program is about as dumb as anything the bureaucrats have come up with. As far as I'm concerned, the land could just as well be returned to the French or the Russians or whoever we bought it from.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel 12—Judy Ferraro, Barbara Agonia, Kathy Bjornson, Kathleen Bell.

Let's try panel 13, too—Shirley Phillips, Jim Lamb, Lucille Lusk, Joanne Barney, Neil Holder, and Joel Hansen.

Panel 14 can come down to the front row. Lois Sagel, Frank Buckley, Elizabeth Warran, Ann Bauer, Rosalie Clark.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA AGONIA, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. AGONIA. Senator Hecht, members of the committee, I am Barbara Agonia. I live and work in Clark County. I am here today, however, to represent the position of Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas. Soroptimists worldwide are concerned with appropriate uses of natural resources within the boundaries of ecological balance and environmental protection. Our club has studied the issues involved in a Nevada wilderness act and has voted to support a bill which includes at least 17 wilderness areas and a national park in the Wheeler Peak area.

Our members are executive and professional women holding significant positions in mining, banking, medicine, the law, insurance, education, small business, major industry, and government. We both contribute to and depend upon the prosperity of this State. Our ages reflect five decades of adult life, and our health is both hale and fragile.

Some of us are physically active. Some are handicapped. Many of us have husbands and children. A few of us are retired. In other words, we represent the spectrum of Nevada's population, with the singular exception that none of us is unemployed or receiving aid from a government support program, though a few of us have been in those situations during our lives.

As I speak for this representative group I urge you to consider our concern for the State and for our prosperity. It is our position that Nevada needs and deserves no less than 700,000 acres of protected wilderness so that we and the genrations after us can experience pristine nature. Knowing that you are inundated with statistics and special interest concerns, we will refrain from adding to that burden. Let me instead simply summarize our position with these few points.

We do not believe that any miner or rancher will be deprived of present holdings by the adoption of already government-owned wilderness. The protection of wilderness prevents the destruction of precious natural landscape by a small portion of the population and, therefore, protects it for the greater numbers of citizens.

Although some people will not be able, because of age, health or handicap, to use the wilderness, the protection of that wilderness

will at least preserve it for those who are able. Failure to protect it portends the eventual loss of wilderness for all people.

Finally, designated wilderness and a national park will increase tourism and enhance the State's economy. Areas which have been decimated by transient enterprise will have the opportunity to build a secure and lasting economic foundation.

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas urges you to present a bill in concert with that of the House of Representatives.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MARY ROBERTS, HENDERSON, NV

Ms. ROBERTS. I am Mary Roberts, a member of Soroptimist International of Henderson and a Henderson resident for 32 years. I am representing my club and speaking in place of Dr. Kathleen Bjornson, our club president, who had to work today. We want to thank Senator Hecht for bringing this hearing to the southern Nevada area where over half the population of the State resides.

We speak in opposition to Senate bill 722 because we feel it is totally inadequate to protect the scenic wilderness areas in Nevada's national forests. Only about 1.5 percent of Nevada's land is being proposed for wilderness by Friends of Nevada Wilderness. This is a modest amount compared to the other Western States, even when combined with the acreage of the Jarbidge Wilderness, the only area now protected in Nevada. This land is rugged, remote, and wild, and it is questionable that it could be made easily accessible by paved roads.

Having our scenic lands preserved enhances the image of our State by sending a message to the rest of the world that Nevada is more than casinos, neon lights, and desolate wasteland.

We do not oppose the creation of a national park in the South Snake Range near Ely. Such a park will help to diversify the kinds of recreation Nevada can offer its tourists. Beautiful high country exists in Nevada, but only long-time residents are aware of this. We want that beauty preserved for future generations. Nevada doesn't need to use all its available land for the profit of those who are here now. We need to protect some of it for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to enjoy and to use as they need it.

We therefore urge the Senate to amend its bill to designate far more of the beautiful mountain forest lands as wilderness so that Nevadans and our visitors, both now and in the future, will be able to enjoy these lands as we have enjoyed them.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN B. BELL, STATE SECRETARY, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA

Ms. BELL. I am Kathleen Bell, secretary for the League of Women Voters of Nevada.

The league has long believed in the preservation of wilderness. The league supports H.R. 3302, as amended. We believe 14 wild areas plus a national park—1.1 million acres total—is more in line

with what most Nevadans would prefer to have preserved for future generations. The four areas contained in S. 722, the Laxalt-Hecht bill, we find woefully inadequate.

The league also supports the proposed Great Basin National Park, to be located in White Pine County. The unique attractions of the Wheeler Peak areas would benefit both Nevada and the visitors if placed in a national park context.

We believe that wilderness areas not preserved now may be lost forever. These are areas that we have enjoyed and which we wish to have preserved for our children, grandchildren and posterity. The League of Women Voters endorses the position of Friends of the Nevada Wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF JIM LAMB, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. LAMB. Thank you, Senator. My name is Jim Lamb, a resident of Clark County, NV. I will begin by stating I am not a member of any wilderness group or any other conservationist group, nor am I a rancher, miner, nor do I have any financial interest in those areas. I am a Nevadan and have traveled through, photographed, and camped in much of our State. I have lived here well over 10 years and love the State and its people dearly.

I am here in support of the Hecht-Laxalt bill because I see it as the only means to protect this State and its people from disaster and economic ruin. To destroy the economy of the State of Nevada and destroy the lives of many of its inhabitants, only to lock away its lands like an old miser locking away his treasures in a vault, is absurd. The argument is made that we are saving the land so that the land can be enjoyed. Enjoyed by who?

By the substance of wilderness bills, it appears that they are establishing private clubs, with the entrance fee being the ability, time and money to hike or ride for miles and miles. In this day and age, with so much concern given to equality and fair access, especially for our handicapped and our senior citizens, it seems inconsistent to in effect shut them out and shut out all but the strong from ever again visiting these beautiful lands.

The time here does not allow for much detail, and others have stated more personal problems as a result of wilderness bills. We could also spend days discussing the disasterous economic impact. I dare say Nevadans, by the fact of their existence in this land, have more respect and a better understanding of the balance of nature than most. I believe that the assumption that without massive amounts of land being set aside for wilderness that Nevadans will turn this State into the likes of New Jersey or another Pittsburgh is ridiculous.

The Forest Service and the BLM already have adequate regulation and do an excellent job managing the coexistence of public and private interests in these areas. But just as the Indians could not stop the cavalry, I do not believe that we can hold out against the power and misleading propaganda of these wilderness groups. The only hope I see, the only salvation for the people of the State of

Nevada whose life, liberty and property hang in the balance, the only defense to preserve our economy is the Hecht-Laxalt bill.

I would like to conclude by applauding your efforts, Senator, in seeking the input from the citizens of Nevada on this issue which can have such a devastating effect on our future.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF SHIRLEY PHILLIPS, HENDERSON, NV

Ms. PHILLIPS. I am Shirley Phillips, and I live in Henderson, NV. I have lived there for 30 years. I moved here from an Indian reservation in South Dakota, and I sympathize with the Indians that spoke to you up in Elko.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. I do not want to take away from your time. At every stop there have been Indians testifying, with the exception of here.

Ms. PHILLIPS. Well, I am another one.

Senator HECHT. OK. So we got five in a row.

Ms. PHILLIPS. I strongly oppose the Seiberling-Reid bill for many reasons. However, the area I am most concerned about is the Mount Charleston-Lee Canyon portion. The forest in this area is surviving on a very delicate natural balance. One forest fire caused by lightning, which under the wilderness bill could not be put out as possible, would severely damage a great portion of the only accessible forest area we in southern Nevada have.

We need the Forest Service to take tender, loving care of this area, not the wilderness bill of Harry Reid.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF JOANNE BARNEY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. BARNEY. My name is Joanne Barney. I am a 16-year resident of Las Vegas.

In 1840, the Rock Island Railroad was being sued by the Mississippi Steamship Co., and the reason they were being sued is because the Rock Island Railroad desired to build a trestle across the river so that they could travel from east to west. The Mississippi Steamboat Co. felt that they had a total right to the river, because they felt like they were the lifeline of commerce through the Mississippi River.

A trial ensued which lasted for many, many months. And at the end of that trial, as the attorneys went before the jury, the attorney for the Rock Island—for the Mississippi Steamboat Co. spent almost a good part of an hour telling the jury why it was immoral for the Rock Island Railroad to be able to build a trestle to be able to travel over it from east to west.

And at the end of that time the attorney for the Rock Island Railroad ambled over to the jury and said to them, I guess what you have to decide today is whether the people have more of a right to go up and down the river or over it. That attorney was Abraham Lincoln.

The jury was dismissed and within a matter of about 8 minutes came back and voted in favor of the Rock Island Railroad, and the

trestle was built and free enterprise continued and America continued to flourish under the railroad system.

As I have listened to the testimony this morning it has occurred to me that the real issue here is citizens' rights. I appreciate the good intent of those that want to preserve our lands, and they have a right as citizens to express that and to have desire for that. I think the real question is which of the citizens of the State of Nevada have a right to enjoy and benefit and use these lands that are being proposed for wilderness.

Do the hunters and the boaters and the miners and the ranchers, the utility companies, the skiers, the campers, do they all have equal right? Because I feel they do and because all rights need to be represented as we contemplate which bill and what should be done with the wilderness areas within the State of Nevada, I am very much in favor of the Laxalt-Vucanovich-Hecht bill because I feel that we need some wilderness areas, that it allows us to have that. It also meets the needs of all the citizens that have rights and needs within the State of Nevada.

As was mentioned when the Soroptimist Club was speaking about the limited amount of wilderness area that we have now and that we would have under your proposed bill, I think we need to bear in mind that that is only the beginning, that the Bureau of Land Management has plans to come before you and to propose other large areas for wilderness. We have only begun.

Senator HECHT. Please summarize.

Ms. BARNEY. I am very much in favor of your bill and appreciate your time.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. We will go right on with the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel 14—Lois Sagel, Frank Buckley, Elizabeth Warran, Ann Bauer, and Rosalie Clark.

I think we might try panel 15, too—Walter Lott, Bert Vaughan, Ray Potter, Zolen Tanner, Ina Wagner, and Lorraine Bailey.

Panel 16 can come down to the front row. Becky Parr, Jack Hinrichs, Michael Kent, Bill Fiero, P. Del Piore, and Jane Cross.

STATEMENT OF ZOLAN TANNER, VICE PRESIDENT, NEVADA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. TANNER. My name is Zolan Tanner. I am vice president of the Nevada Trappers Association. We support the Hecht-Laxalt-Vucanovich bill 100 percent.

Dart Anthony, when he talks about coyotes, I guess he's never seen any of them when they have got into a herd of sheep or something like that. At one time they told us we could feed them birth control pills. I don't know whether he's ever tried that or not, but I don't think it works.

The Air Force test site and the Navy have taken their chunk out of our State. I was at the Groom Range hearings. Early this morning some of the Air Force officers were here that were at that hearing. That is one of the phoniest hearings I have ever been to, where it is already cut and dried and we have already lost before we go there.

There's one family, the Sheehan family, that has had a mine there for over 100 years. For them to get into their mine, they have to call and make special arrangements to meet them at the gate, and an armed guard meets them at the gate and lets them in.

Now, I think enough of our State is already gone. We do have some wilderness areas, and the smaller proposal would be fine, but pretty soon there is going to be nothing left. All we are is a test site, a bombing range, surrounded by a little bit of State.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF LOIS SAGEL, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. SAGEL. I am Lois Sagel, a 28-year Las Vegan. Thank you for holding these hearings in Las Vegas. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to express my views.

I speak in opposition to Senate bill 722. Even though I agree wth your choice of four beautiful areas, I find the bill to be totally inadequate. I support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness designation of 21 areas.

I also have very, very strong objections to the special interest provisions written into this bill. I believe the mandating of motorized equipment for grazing and mining, and the use of herbicides for so-called noxious weeds violates the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

On a more personal level, I am a mother and a grandmother, but I'm also the granddaughter of a cattle rancher and the daughter of a miner, and I support preservation of 1.5 million acres of wonderful mountaintops for our future. I am proud of my children, and I am proud of Nevada, with its independent frontier spirit. We have had fantastic vacations in our mountains. We believe that these experiences have helped to build our childrens' strong characters.

My three grandchildren are still young. The oldest is 6½. The biggest thrill in his life is to be able to go hunting with his dad in the Rubies. The great memories that we have shared with our children are now being shared with theirs. But, what will be there when the 4-month-old baby grows up? It is up to us to protect these lands for our future generations and for their treasure chest of memories.

Nine years ago I joined the 35 million Americans who are disabled. I can no longer climb those fascinating mountaintops and be the king of the mountain or can I cross-country ski on the lavender-tinted snow.

I've heard said that if we allow wilderness we will be locking out those who are disabled, handicapped, or elderly. That argument is totally unfounded. If we are being locked out by wilderness, does that mean that if no wilderness is designated the government will provide access into each of these areas so that I can enjoy them? Of course not.

It is just as silly to state that I or anyone else is being locked out. Infirmity will come to almost everyone at sometime. It may be due to age, accident, or illness. With any infirmity comes the realization that we cannot do everything. And with that acceptance comes compromise and the knowledge that the most important thing we

can do is preserve our most precious heritage so that others can use these same resources now and in the future.

That, Mr. Chairman, is why I am before you. Maybe one person can make the difference.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. That was very eloquent. Give her a hand; that was good.

[Applause.]

STATEMENT OF ROSALIE CLARK, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. CLARK. I am Rosalie Clark, and I am from Las Vegas, NV. I am speaking in behalf of my family, and especially my child Halley, who I have with me. He is a native Nevadan.

Senator HECHT. He is cute, too.

Ms. CLARK. Thank you. We support both the creation of the Great Basin National Park and the preservation of a large amount of Nevada's wilderness.

I am a department head in Las Vegas Hospital and my husband is a scientist working in support of the Nevada testsite. It may come as a surprise to you that my husband and I have chosen to work and live in Nevada, because of its wide open and natural spaces. We have frequently visited Wheeler Peak and have been impressed. We feel that Wheeler Peak would make an appropriate and very fine addition to the National Park System. We have visited nearly half of the national parks, and find Wheeler Peak to be as awe-inspiring as any of them.

We don't consider ourselves as elitists who want to exclude all but a few from Nevada's wilderness, but we do want to preserve the very best of Nevada for our child and for his children to come. Wilderness is like money in the bank; it's a legacy we can will to our children.

We have toured much of Nevada and we have made it a point to visit several of the proposed wilderness areas—the Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, certainly Mount Charleston we have visited, and the Wheeler Peak area. Our family has touched, listened, smelled and photographed our way through these areas. We have shared our experiences and photographs with Halley's invalid grandmother and have concluded we can never have enough of nature. If these areas are not preserved as wilderness, then there is no guarantee that they will survive intact and unmarred for our grandchildren.

We want to will our children as much of Nevada's natural beauty as possible. We urge passage of Congressman Reid's bill that includes the creation of the Great Basin National Park and a wilderness area of, I believe, 993,000 acres of wilderness. We originally favored the Friends of Nevada Wilderness bill, which set aside 1.5 million acres, but we appreciate multiple land use needs. We cannot support the Vucanovich bill because it preserves a disappointingly small amount of Nevada's best.

So, we urge support of Congressman Reid's bill. We feel that almost a million acres or a million acres is appropriate when 3.6 million acres is dedicated to nuclear testing in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF FRANK BUCKLEY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BUCKLEY. My name is Frank Buckley. I have been a registered voter in Las Vegas for just under 17 years. I am representing myself as a private citizen, speaking in opposition to Senate bill 722 and urging you to amend it to more closely conform to the provisions of House bill 3302.

I am employed as a systems analyst. Most of my free time is spent outdoors, enjoying nature as a hunter, fisherman, hiker, skier, and landscape photographer. With my cameras I try to capture the beauty of the deserts, the mountains, the lakes, streams, and forests. Vehicular scars and old tailing dumps do not contribute to nature's beauty. Some of the most beautiful parts of our State need to be left free from the impact of civilization.

Much of my time has been spent in many of the areas proposed for designation as wilderness, specifically Mount Charleston, Wheeler Peak, the Snake Creek Range, the Rubies, the Schell Creek range, and the Jarbidge wilderness area. Having access to these pristine lands and others like them is an absolute necessity for me to renew my spirit and allow me to cope with the rigors of my job and modern city living. Getting close to elemental nature relieves my tension and revitalizes me.

I want to ensure, by the passage of a good wilderness bill, that my children and my children's children will be afforded the same opportunity to get close to nature and renew themselves with its beauty and tranquility.

Just last night I received the latest issue of Arizona Highways magazine. This particular issue, coincidentally, happens to be devoted to a celebration of Arizona's wilderness bill, which was passed in 1984. Three photographers were commissioned to portray some of the beauty which has been preserved for the enjoyment of future generations in that State and did an excellent job. I would urge anyone who isn't sure what wilderness is all about to read the current issue.

Unfortunately, it also caused me great pain when I read that the present Arizona wilderness areas encompass only 3 percent of that State's total land mass, or 2,037,000 acres, and then compared that to what the two Senators I voted for are proposing for Nevada. Three percent of Nevada's land mass would amount to 2,121,000 acres, and you are offering us a microscopic 137,000 acres, which amounts to less than two-tenths of 1 percent.

Nevada at this time is an outdoorsman's paradise, but increasing population pressure is rapidly shrinking the availability of quality recreation areas, and this trend will only get worse in the future as Nevada grows. I beg you to show some foresight now and amend the Senate bill to at least equal the bare minimum acreage proposed by House bill 3302, as amended.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF ANN BAUER, INDIAN SPRINGS, NV

Ms. BAUER. My name is Ann Bauer and my husband and I are 21-year residents of Nevada. Our children were born here. We are an outdoor family, with our four-wheel-drive, guns, fishing holes,

horses, skis, and all the rest. We place a very high value on wilderness as a place to escape urban pressures and to renew ourselves. It gives us an opportunity to remember what life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is really all about, despite the fact that one member of my family is visually handicapped.

As farmers, we are concerned about the protection of water resources and watersheds. We ourselves take every means to use this precious resource carefully, and, believe me, we would much rather be downstream from a wilderness area than livestock, mining, or nuclear waste.

As parents, we are concerned about the future. We feel land must be set aside and carefully protected for future generations. If we were to set aside just 2 percent of Nevada, what harm could possibly result? On the other hand, perhaps the benefits would be great—opportunities for development of knowledge, character and peace of mind. Don't we owe our children, our future, and our Nation at least 2 percent of what we have?

House bill 3302, as amended, is a conservative wilderness approach. It's like putting money in the bank, with one benefit that a bank can't provide. As this area is saved with interest for the future we are allowed to use it right now. I ask you, Senator Hecht, to give your support to Congressman Reid's bill. With a united congressional delegation we can preserve something for the future.

Remember, we're not only Nevadans; we are Americans, and we are citizens of a small, fragile world. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH WARREN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. WARREN. Senator Hecht and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Warren. I have been a resident here of southern Nevada for 17 years, and I have put down deep roots in this State, having raised four children to adulthood here, and my Nevada home is very important to me. I am very happy to learn it is important to you also, and that is why you are here today, and I do thank you for taking the time to come here.

I could speak to you from many perspectives. I am a trained historian, a trained anthropologist. I do a lot of archeological excavation. We could talk about all those things, but I think one of the most important aspects in this whole discussion that I have heard, whether it be at this hearing or the one in Ely that I attended which was held by the House Committee on National Parks to take testimony about the Great Basin National Park—and I did attend that hearing at Ely, and I have my testimony, if you need that.

I would like to talk about it from the economic perspective. We have heard a great deal about mining. We have heard a great deal about agriculture, and we have heard nothing about our major industry in this State, that is tourism. For every dollar a tourist brings in, you get about 33 cents maximum from every other source, $3 to every $1 as a minimum. One-third of all the people employed in the State of Nevada are employed in tourism. I am employed in tourism. I run for the Allied Arts Council a tourist and convention service program which introduces people to the surprises of our State.

In my day-to-day business, I meet person-to-person thousands of out-of-State and foreign visitors to Nevada. Their perceptions of Nevada are almost always scantily based and very inaccurate. They have brief exposure to images they have picked up from movies or television, and what we do in our program is try to correct a great deal of that image.

I have learned from these encounters how important it is that Nevada has unspoiled areas, and that visitors can expect to find and enjoy the real west, which includes ranches, historic sites, archeological ruins, mining, et cetera. But the proposal to set aside only four areas of wilderness in S. 722 does not meet the needs of our tourist economy. The pressure on Jarbidge, our single wilderness, is very, very great, and half those visitors already come from out of State.

We must set aside enough land to meet the needs of the number of people who wish to enjoy our wild country. Rural and small town Nevadans will reap the benefits of serving the needs of these people. Tourism is a very old industry in Nevada. It goes back at least 150 years. But we have improved our facilities along the main trails. Now it is time to let people know that beyond those main trails there are these wonderful areas. Nevada ranchers, who found that out long ago, and have kept close to their hearts the beautiful areas in which they live, can profit themselves from increased tourism.

Dude ranching was at one time a very important economic activity in this State, surrounding each of the major cities in the State there were many dude ranches which served the needs of people who came and who had enjoyed their lifestyle and were willing to pay a high price to enjoy it. Surely, Nevada ranchers could share some of that beauty with our guests and still enjoy their own lifestyle. I support the extension of S. 722 to at least House bill 3302 as amended, and wish that you would seriously try to accommodate those needs. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Your entire text will be part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Warren follows:]

Statement of Elizabeth Warren
Representing Cultural Focus
Before the Senate Subcommittee on
Public Lands and Reserved Water
February 14, 1986, Las Vegas, Nevada

My name is Elizabeth Warren. I am a resident of Las Vegas but formerly lived in Goodsprings, a turn of the century mining camp, about 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas. I am here today to speak in opposition to S. B. 722. By profession I am Director of Cultural Focus, the tourism outreach program of the Allied Arts Council of Southern Nevada. Cultural Focus provides arts-oriented programs and tours (The Flip Side of Las Vegas) to convention attendees and tourists. Our principal market is the out-of-state and international visitor who comes to Las Vegas for four to seven days to attend a business or professional meeting. I have thousands of opportunities throughout the year to talk to these visitors. They are fascinated with Nevada, a state largely unknown outside its borders.

At Cultural Focus, we spend much time educating the visitor to Las Vegas about the surprises Nevada holds for them when they return on vacations--mountains, lakes, rare and unique animals, plants and geologic formations. I know from these contacts that it is very important to visitors that Nevada has untouched natural areas which, on this crowded, noisy, polluted planet, they can plan to visit and where they can still experience the unspoiled American West. The West has long intrigued both Americans from crowded urban states and foreign visitors whose forests, lakes and mountains have long ago been tamed. Today's tourists still look to the back country of the West for recreational opportunities.

I support the proposal of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness to designate as wilderness 21 areas of our beautiful state, comprising 1.5 million acres of forest land. We must consider the needs of tourism, Nevada's **major** industry, as we struggle to decide which of competing interests shall prevail. The Friends proposal is conservative; it designates as wilderness less than half of the 3.5 million acres that are eligible. Thank you for the opportunity of testifying on behalf of wilderness for Nevada. I further believe that Wheeler Peak deserves the status of a National Park, a proposal included in H.R. 3302 as amended, and that combining this area with the Lehman Caves National Monument makes good sense administratively. As a resident heavily involved in the tourist industry, I am convinced that these land use designations will become increasingly important in the growth and diversification of our tourist market.

Parks and wilderness have great appeal to the tourist. In my travels around the United States, Mexico, England, Ireland and Africa, I have found brochures promoting organized tours that offer trips to the American national parks and primitive areas combined with stops at major cities such as San Francisco and Las Vegas are featured on every pamphlet rack. With the designation of wilderness in areas that can be easily served by the major tourist cities of Nevada reached by air, this tourist market can become important in our state's economy. The new African nation of Zimbabwe has set aside 11% ofits land for national parks and preserves, because of the importance of tourism to that small nation's economy. We here in Nevada, where tourism outstrips every other revenue source by a ratio of about $3 to $1, should do no less--but I'll settle for 2%.

Opposition to wilderness is frequently expressed by people who claim to have Nevada's economic health at heart. Yet, clearly it is tourism that holds the most promise for Nevada's future, just as it has in the last fifty years. By the year 2000, tourism will be the number one industry in the world; it is already number one in Nevada. Clark County provides the major tourist income in the state based on marketing that heavily depends on gaming and entertainment. The outdoor recreation market is targeted mainly at Lake Mead; it will be a valuable boost to have Mt. Charlesicon wilderness to offer to the recreationist who prefers high altitude activities.

In the past, Nevada's economy was based mainly on mining and ranching. Neither produces reliable revenue and job opportunities today. The history of Nevada is characterized by the boom/bust cycle in mining. This pattern has produced numerous picturesque ghost town for today's tourist to enjoy and explore, but mining in these areas today is generally not feasible. World markets, changing mineral utilization, domestic labor costs and many other factors have caused many once valuable ore bodies to remain undeveloped, or for mining activities to cease at formerly busy locations. Tonopah's recent boom and bust is a very current case in point. In Goodsprings, which boomed in World War I and again during WW II, there has been almost no activity since 1945. In this forty year hiatus, it is tourists and occasional film companies that have provided revenue for the few businesses that remain.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that mining is an extractive industry. Sooner or later, the miners must leave because the ore is exhausted or too low grade to be profitable. Mining is also a destructive industry, creating raw wounds in the earth, causing erosion, air and noise

pollution and water degradation. In many ways, mining is antithetical to tourism. It is important to protect our tourism industry, Nevada's major economic base. Land use decisions affect tourism as well as mining, ranching and military activities. Nevada's long range best interests must be paramount here.

Archaeological and historical sites are valuable assets to a tourism industry. Nevada's ghost towns are good examples of historic sites that are very important to the state's tourism efforts. Prehistoric sites are also important, although sites located at the high elevations of national forest lands are extremely rare. Most sites are simple hunting camps, seasonally used in the past. On Mt. Charleston, there are a few camps at high elevation, some sawmill sites and a cabin or two within the area proposed for wilderness. Unfortunately, the charcoal kilns along the Wheeler Pass road are outside the wilderness boundaries since the road itself precludes their inclusion. Wilderness areas, by definition, are roadless areas.

Roadlessness is the very characteristic of these areas that is most important in the protection of archaeological and historic sites, which are extremely valuable resources in a tourist economy. Unless Nevada can provide protection for these sites against vandalism and destruction by mining, ranching or other development, the sites are best left in isolation. Historic and archaeologic sites are irreplaceable and nonrenewable. Wherever such sites are accessible by road, they are destroyed.

In 1979 I participated in an evaluation of forces responsible for destruction of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the California Desert Conservation Area, comprised of most of the desert lands east of the Sierra Nevada. The single most important cause of the obliteration of these resources proved to be accessibility by motor vehicle. The study documented the acceleration of site destruction following road building and the invention of vehicles which can traverse roadless areas: motorcycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, etc. Historic sites which had withstood the natural elements for over 100 years, and prehistoric sites thousands of years old, succumbed to vandalism within one to three years of road building to or near the site. The road need not be paved and graded; any rough power line road was sufficient to cause immense damage to these irreplaceable resources. Wilderness designation precludes road building, and such classification for all 21 areas supported by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness would assist materially in preserving the archaeological and historic values found in these areas for future generations to enjoy and to learn from. The 939,000 acres of wilderness in

the House bill, H.R. 3302 as amended, and the Great Basin National Park at Wheeler Peak and Lehman Caves National Monument areas, is an excellent compromise. This bill is still not as conservative as I would like, but it is an important statement nonetheless.

Tourism is an old industry in Nevada, a state encompassing millions of acres of desert, dry lakes, and seemingly endless plains of scrubby plants. Early travellers hastened to cross Nevada as rapidly as possible to reach the golden land of California. Only a few trails and wagon roads crossed Nevada, leaving large areas untouched. The beauty of Nevada's high mountains was lost on the cross country traveller, who experienced only the dry dusty valleys and plains where stage coach and later railroad stops were built. These same mountains, today still unknown to many, are an invaluable resource for Nevada, attractive to tourist markets still relatively untapped by the state's major industry. These markets include family oriented vacation and outdoor recreation activities, and dude ranching.

Today, Nevada's ranchers can look to tourism for help in maintaining the ranches they love, the life style they so value. And they can look to the Wilderness Act to help them in continuing their ranching acrtivities and expanding their individual economic base to include dude ranching, for the Wilderness program guarantees continuation of the grazing and ranching activities already in place. Nevada ranches once serve a large tourist population; in the 1930s and 1940s, area ranches opened their bunkhouses to dudes seeking Nevada divorces. Only with the postwar growth of large motel resorts was the dude ranch displaced from its important role in serving Nevada's tourists. Now, Nevada ranchers are again looking at attracting dudes--foreign and domestic visitors who wish to touch the real Old West, and who can find the genuine article at the rural Nevada ranch of today. Nevada's ranchers have an opportunity to seize the best of both worlds--ranching and a solid economic base--by sharing their ranches and the beauty of Nevada open spaces with paying guests. Untouched wilderness, for the Nevada rancher, is therefore an important component in a tourism oriented state.

Nevada's tourism industry has grown immensely in the 150 years since traffic opened on the Humboldt Road. Today's tourist wants more than simple roadside camps, and Nevada's hotel/motel industry has grown apace. Today Nevada has hundreds of tourist facilities catering to millions of visitors annually, but most of them as yet see little of the Nevada "outback." Since 1931 when gaming was legalized, Nevada has created a market based on gaming and entertainment. In recent years, Nevada's leaders have recognized, however, that it is

essential to diversify the state's economy, and to diversify within the tourism industry itself. The 1980 Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada, in which 25 leading and countless ordinary citizens participated, included conservation of natural resources and stimulation of non-gaming recreation as components of the plan to provide for a more diverse economic base for Nevada.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1977 and 1982 described the needs of resident and out of state visitors for different recreational resources in Nevada. In Nevada, where 87 percent of the land is owned by the federal government, 99 percent of Nevada's recreational acreage is managed by public agencies: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forst Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. These agencies thus bear the brunt of resident and non-resident pressures for recreational activities and wilderness. As these populations grow, the pressures on Nevada's federally managed recreational resources increases correspondingly. In 1977, for example, the register of visitors to Jarbidge, Nevada's lone wilderness area, revealed that 48 percent were from out of state. By the year 2000, the visitation is predicted to more than double, with the share of out-of-state visitation possibly increasing, as surrounding states grow and Nevada's population doubles. We must provide more wilderness areas with strong preservation management tools to protect them as visitor volume increases.

The State of Nevada, in response to the citizen recommendations, has devoted considerable effort since 1981 in upgrading the State Department of Tourism, increasing the budget by milliions of dollars to promote "the other Nevada" as a non-gaming recreation destination. A new state agency has been put in place to promote Nevada as a location for film making, and we are seeing excellent success in these areas. In particular, the small towns in the remote rural areas of Nevada are beginning to experience positive results from these efforts. IN FY 1985, while statewide room tax receipts were up 13 percent, the receipts from outside the two urban centers were up 16 percent. This upward trend has been attributed to the increased promotion of Nevada's back country, its outdoor recreational opportunities, and regional folk festivals.

Preservation of a significant portion of Nevada's wild lands is essential as Nevada struggles to change her image from exclusively gaming recreation to a tourist destination with wide appeal. It is important that the Senate of the United States recognize the value of wilderness and the proposed Great Basin National Park in supporting Nevada's efforts to establish a broader, more secure economic niche in the all important tourist industry. By taking action to estaolish sizeable

wilderness areas in Nevada, you will be telling the world that the Great Basin is not only a desert with bizarre plants and scaly beasts, but also a land that nourishes the spirit, whose forbidding facade hides nuggets of beauty that are revealed only to the explorer who goes that extra mile, spends the extra effort to find them.

You will be saying to the world that this is an area of extraordinary beauty, of unique scenery, which is of national value for these very reasons alone. The wilderness areas and the proposed Great Basin National Park will attract more people to Nevada for non-gaming recreation; it will give us a chance to show what Nevada is really all about.

Nevada tourism needs must be given equal right to make use of the forests and mountains of Nevada. Our most important industry must not be left out of deliberations and decisions regarding the economic use of these public lands.

Nevada can only benefit from establishing **significant** wilderness areas. S.B. 722 offers far too little acreage, far too few areas, to be deemed a significant effort. I oppose its passage in its present form.

I urge Nevada's representatives to set aside political rivalries and work in unison for the best interests of our state. I urge that the long range perspective be adopted in respect to these wild areas, that as much as possible be banked for the future. The dividends produced by such an investment will last forever.

Senator HECHT. I do want to point out, if there was a misunderstanding, the House did have a hearing on the national park bill, but I do not agree with their procedure. They passed the bill out of the committee. Then they had a hearing. I think I like my idea, to have the hearing and then work on a bill in committee.

[Applause.]

Ms. WARREN. Yes, but I think the record here seemed to indicate there had never been a hearing.

Senator HECHT. I am sorry. That is the reason I brought that out, to correct the hearing. That is correct. They had it after the bill had passed the committee, but it is still in the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much.

That is all for this panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. panel 16, Becky Parr, Jack Hinrichs, Michael Kent, Bill Fiero, P. Del Piore, and Jane Cross.

If you are on panel 16, come on up.

Senator HECHT. Come on up and take a seat.

We have a lot of dropouts right now, and so we are just going on ahead and taking two or three panels at a time. So, if you have applied, and something happens that we bypass you, just notify us and we will make sure that you get on.

STATEMENT OF BECKY PARR, SIERRA CLUB, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. PARR. My name is Becky Parr, and I am representing the Sierra Club Las Vegas group, which consists of approximately 500 members in Clark County.

The value of wilderness lands can be measured not only in aesthetic terms, but in economic terms as well. Valuable watersheds will be protected, and in this day and age of environmental pollution it is important to note that the availability of potable drinking water has been termed the primary limit to growth.

Also, recreational areas will be created for the increased tourism that will come to Nevada in the near future. Increased tourism will contribute more jobs and revenue to Nevada than the mining industry, which currently is estimated to produce only 2 percent of Nevada's jobs and 3 percent of her revenue.

Even if all proposed National Forest areas, all BLM proposed wilderness study areas, and all fish and wildlife areas are designated as wilderness, Nevada would still have more total area available for mining exploration than any other State except Alaska.

This coupled with the fact that no significant mines and few mining claims exist within the proposed wilderness areas we are seeking suggest that these areas pose no threat to current mining interests. I urge you to increase the size of designated wilderness areas within Nevada to a size more in line with that proposed by H.R. 3302 as amended, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Parr with attachments follow:]

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 722 PRESENTED AT THE
FIELD HEARING IN LAS VEGAS

My name is Becky Parr, and I'm representing the Sierra Club, Las Vegas Group which consists of approximately 500 members in Clark County, and 1500 members statewide through the Toiyabe Chapter.

Currently Nevada ranks a distant last in designated wilderness as compared to 11 western states. Senate bill 722 will designate 137,000 acres but we believe Nevada deserves more. We are asking you to consider raising the acreage to be included in a wilderness bill from the senate to that proposed by the bill pending in the House.

The value of wilderness lands can be measured not only in esthetic terms but in economic terms as well. Valuable watersheds will be protected and in this age of environmental pollution it is important to note that the availability of potable drinking water has been termed the primary limit to growth. Also, recreational areas would be created for the increased tourism that will come to Nevada in the near future. Increased tourism will contribute more jobs and revenue to Nevada than the mining industry -- which is estimated to produce only 2% of Nevada's jobs and 3% of her revenue. Even if all proposed National Forest areas, all BLM proposed wilderness study areas, and all Fish and Wildlife areas are designated as wilderness, Nevada would still have more total area available for mining exploration than any other state except Alaska. This coupled with the fact that no significant mines and few mining claims exist within the proposed wilderness areas we are seeking, suggests that these areas pose no threat to current mining interests.

I urge you to increase the size of designated wilderness areas within Nevada to a size more in line with that proposed by HR3302 as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

WILDERNESS HEARING TESTIMONY

Donald F. Gurka
5303 Stampa Ave.
Las Vega , NV 89102

By way of background I wish to point out Nevada's relationship to the ten other Western States in terms of currently designated wilderness areas and total land surface. Nevada ranks 5th in total land area among the 11 Western States but is a distant last in currently designated wilderness area. Currently pending legislation S722 and HR 1686 would slightly increase Nevada's wilderness area but she would still remain last. The next lowest wilderness state in land area would be Utah with about three times as much wilderness area (even if S722 or HR1686 were passed).

The value of wilderness lands can be measured not only in esthetic terms but in economic terms as well. Valuable watersheds will be protected in some of these areas and in this age of environmental pollution of the nation's waterway's, it is important to point out that the availability of potable drinking water has been termed the primary limit to growth. Furthermore, as recreational areas, the wilderness regions can be expected to significantly contribute to the state's revenue by increased tourism. This tourism should be increased by the trend to greater leisure time of the average American. This increased tourism can be expected to contribute more jobs and revenue to Nevada than the mining industry (a major opponent of increased wilderness) which is estimated to produce only 2% of Nevada's jobs and 3% of her revenue. Even if all 18 proposed National Forest areas, all BLM proposed wilderness study areas, and all proposed Fish and Wildlife areas are

designated as wilderness, Nevada would still have more total area available for mining exploration than any other state except Alaska. These facts, coupled with the additional facts that no significant mines and few mining claims exist within the proposed wilderness areas suggests that increasing the size of these wilderness areas poses no significant threat to current mining interests. Therefore, in light of these facts, and in light of the obvious value of wilderness areas to current and future Nevadans and Americans, I urge you to increase the size of designated wilderness areas within Nevada to a size more in line with that proposed by HR3302 as amended.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hearing on Nevada Wilderness
14-Feb-86
Las Vegas, NV

My name is Stanley D. Hillyard. I have been a resident of Nevada since 1976. I was married in Nevada and my two children were born in this state. I am employed as an associate professor in the Biological Sciences Department of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and I hold a Ph.D in Biology. Finally, I am a hunter, fisherman and backpacker. For all of the above reasons I would like to testify as a private citizen to encourage the adoption of congressman Reid's proposal for Nevada wilderness.

As a parent I am concerned that my children will be able to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of their native state. Unless steps are taken to preserve wilderness areas families such as my own will be deprived not only of the beauty but also of the family bonding experience which these areas afford. President Reagan has recently stressed the importance of the family unit in preserving the American way of life. That very way of life draws heavily on the wilderness experience of our forefathers and it can only be preserved if wilderness is allowed to exist.

As a professional biologist I am aware of the tremendous diversity of life to be found in our state. The availability of water in Nevada's mountains makes them islands in a great sea of the Great Basin Desert. Like islands in the oceans each mountain range has unique combinations of plant and animal life which have come to exist over many thousands of years. From a biological perspective it is imperative that we preserve as many of these habitats as possible so that we may better understand the ecological factors that establish the plant and animal interactions. The fewer areas we preserve,the less we shall be able to understand and preserve those that remain.

As a hunter I have climbed in the Ruby Mountains, Duck Creek Range and Mount Jefferson area in search of mule deer. Many of the areas in which I have hunted have been severely impacted by off-road vehicles and overgrazing. By giving wilderness designation to the remaining areas congress will be preserving habitat for game and non-game species and make Nevada more enjoyable for hunters and non-hunters alike. The argument has been made that wilderness status makes an area off-limits for hunting. Last fall I hunted mule deer in the Ritter Range of the John Muir Wilderness Area of California as did many other hunters who applied for deer tags in area D-7 of that state. There is a similar misconception about National Park status. A drive from Nelson to Eldorado Canyon in Southern Nevada will show that a zone where hunting is permitted exists on the outer boundary of the Lake Mead Recreational Area which is administered by the National Park Service. Clearly, accomodation can be made for hunters, such as myself, who wish to pursue their sport on wilderness or National Park land. Since habitat is preserved in wilderness areas hunters should favor their establishment not oppose them.

Respectfully submitted,
Stanley D. Hillyard
4725 Tamalpias
Las Vegas, NV 89120

Stanley D. Hillyard

STATEMENT OF P. DEL PIORE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DEL PIORE. My name is Del Piore. I am a member of the Wilderness Society, but I speak as a private concerned citizen. I speak not so much for myself as for future generations, and I speak in favor of proposals sponsored by Congressman Harry Reid, that is, for approximately 900,000 acres of wilderness land in the Great Basin National Park.

When I moved to Nevada 30 years ago, one of the attractions was clean air. Recently the Las Vegas Sun published these facts. In 1985–86, it ranked as the worst smog season in 10 years, 52 days of unhealthful air so far. To the north, the beautiful city of Reno is suffering the same fate. Lake Tahoe is plagued with water, air, and noise pollution. The Carson River system is being poisoned by mercury. The Colorado River system is being threatened by salinization and sewage contamination.

In Clark County, the Nevada test site, including a dump site, is polluting our environment with radiation, with more to come. Last year the Air Force autocratically added thousands of acres to the test site. In Falon, NV, the Navy Department plans to or has annexed thousands of acres to enlarge a practice bombing range and accommodate supersonic flights. Noise pollution galore.

A few years ago the powers that be were prepared to devastate the Great Basin area in the name of defense, the MX missile system. Coincidentally the price of land increased tenfold in areas around Alamo, Calinete, and Ely. Pollution be damned.

I am not opposed to progress or the improvement of our defense systems. I trained at the Nellis Gunnery School, and I have worked at the Nevada test site. But, I think we should devote as much energy to preserving the State as to exploiting it. In the past 100 years, the money barons have taken gold, silver, and copper from this Earth and left for the most part nothing but the scars of their operations.

We want guarantees for the future. It is asking too much for the Federal Government to put into trust for our collective enjoyment roughly 700,000 acres of wilderness land that belongs to the people? The good Senator Laxalt has a patch of private wilderness in the Sierras, Lake Marlette, with a private road available only to himself and his friends. Now, most of us were not fortunate enough to inherit a mountain retreat. A lot of us can't afford a house, let alone a cabin in the Sierras or a ranch in Santa Barbara.

We are asking for a guarantee that in the future there will be ample areas of Nevada where one can hike through the scented pines, breathe pure air, kneel beside a stream, and fill their canteen with pure cool water. As Congressman Reid has stated, these areas are the family jewels. They should be insured. They should be protected.

When you drive by a schoolyard filled with fresh young faces, are you aware of what these kids face in the future? Increasing world terrorism, war, possibly nuclear war, astronomical Federal deficits, drug addiction, and pollution of their planet. That is some future. I say let us leave them a legacy of freshness and beauty.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF INA WAGNER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. WAGNER. My name is Ina Wagner, and I take great pride in being a resident of the State of Nevada. I love the deserts, the hills, the blue skies, and the mountains, and I am proud of the independent nature of the people of this State that we seem to have. It reflects our nature of self-reliance. However, now my concern for this State and the infringement upon our lands is escalating.

It has always been my opinion that the congressional delegation we sent back to Washington, DC, should work closely together, bending over backward, if necessary, to preserve our State's rights and our independence. And I really become concerned when issues of wilderness lands are being dictated by those from back east who have become greedy because of our beautiful State.

Our State is for all people to enjoy, all of our people. Most of us do not backpack. Most of us do not hike. But we can drive, and to me wilderness area has become the epitome of selfishness, because only a limited few will ever have the opportunity of seeing it. One is automatically excluded if you do not backpack or horseride.

Wilderness is not always necessarily better. Sometimes there are things that have to be taken care of and should be taken care of as far as the ecology is concerned. And under the wilderness policy they cannot be touched. I feel that our local and our State officials, legislators should help regulate what is taking place to preserve our State in the manner it should be, and not just shut it off to most of the people in the State.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF LORRAINE BAILEY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. BAILEY. My name is Lorraine Bailey. I am a resident here in Las Vegas. I am a wife and mother of eight children. I preface my remarks by telling you that because my concern with the wilderness proposal is the definition of wilderness. I believe that the average citizen is not aware that wilderness is not a State park where you can take your camper and camp with your children and family.

It would be very difficult for me and my children aging in range from 2 to 15 and my husband to backpack into a wilderness area, and I think the average citizen living in the State of Nevada would agree with my point of view. I think that lack of knowledge on the part of the citizen is one of the problems with wilderness, and I also think misinformation is a problem with the wilderness bill.

I received from my Congressman 3 days ago in Congressional District 1, Harry Reid, a letter that discussed the wilderness area, and I quote from that letter. "Three bills were introduced in Congress this year dealing with Nevada's wilderness, one designated 137,000 acres, one including 1.5 million acres, and my bill for 723,000 acres."

If I am to understand the facts, I believe Congressman Reid's bill was amended and now includes acreage that approaches the 1 million mark. This letter was sent to me on February 3. It is unbelievable to me that the Congressman is unaware that the correct

figure is almost a million acres rather than 723,000, as he indicates in his letter.

His position is supposed to be looked upon as a moderate one, and I do not believe that is true. Almost 87 percent of the land in Nevada is now owned by the Federal Government, and I think if the average citizenry is given the correct information, they will agree with us that the amount of land proposed in Congressman Reid's bill is excessive, and I would urge you to consider this.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT Thank you very much. Let us go right on to the next one.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel 17, Annabelle Stanford, Julian Spenlove, Ranel Erickson, Katherine Erickson, Michelle Carter, Rachael Hubbard, and Phil Joyal.

And let us call panel 18 down, Edna Thompson, John Hiatt, Gueneth Den Dooven, Treva Sharp, Michele Kelesis, and Pat Dingle.

We will have panel 19 come down to the front row, Harry Papas, Ken Truman, Blair Wilcox, Shirley Rice, Virgil Slade, and Gary Stewart.

Senator HECHT. Do you want to start, sir?

STATEMENT OF PHIL JOYAL, JARBIDGE, NV

Mr. JOYAL. My name is Phillip Joyal.

Senator Hecht, I happen to be an endangered species, because I am a retired Air Force colonel living in Jarbidge, NV. I am a relative newcomer. I was born and raised in Jarbidge 66 years ago, and I know that area well. I spent 28 years in the Air Force, and upon retirement I returned to Elko County and subsequently moved back to Jarbidge, where my wife and I have been living for the past 18 years.

Now, concerning wilderness, it is the consensus of Jarbidge residents that there is absolutely no need for additional wilderness in the Jarbidge area as it stands now and the current wilderness is more than adequate and can accommodate use by a great many more than use it now.

A significant fact is that I have talked to small groups who are preparing to backpack into the wilderness, and they became quite agitated when they learned that another group was a few hours ahead of them. They wanted the area for themselves.

I can appreciate the desire for solitude, but I cannot accept restricting an area just so a very few can be alone, and this is happening in expansion of some of the current wilderness.

Now, we do not object nor do we oppose a reasonable approach to some wilderness expansion, but we ask that people officially making proposals come into our area and face to face get the reactions and inputs from the people who are directly concerned, and except for the current hearings that are going on now, this has not happened in the case of Jarbidge.

Now, with respect to current proposals, we can accept the Laxalt-Hecht-Vucanovich bill with some important modifications. One example, there is an area south of Jarbidge that for years was used

by myself and may others and our children where we could go by auto and enjoy fishing, picnicking, or recreation.

However, that road was closed a few years ago, and this area is now being considered for wilderness expansion. This road should be reopened, and the area dropped from wilderness consideration, and just as important, it should not be denied us by the questionable expedient of designating it as a buffer zone.

Now, in the few minutes allotted, I cannot cover all of the objections we have to additional wilderness in our area, but I would like to make this point. I have heard many times that additional wilderness is being created for the greatest good, and I have heard that here tonight. Proponents of wilderness expansion give all kinds of figures showing the numbers to whom the added wilderness would be available, but when you compare those numbers who actually come to walk in the wilderness against those who come to enjoy but who could not if we get carried away with additional wilderness, it does not even come close. And I can say that by watching the Jarbidge wilderness area on site.

I thank you for listening.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF JOHN HIATT, REDROCK AUDUBON SOCIETY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. HIATT. Senator Hecht, my name is John Hiatt, and I represent the Redrock Audubon Society here in Las Vegas, NV. It is a unique area, and a unique place. It is in the Great Basin of the Basin and Range Province, and in an area unique in North America and possibly the whole world in terms of isolated mountain ranges interspersed with valleys.

As a result of the valley separations, each mountain range is a little different than each other, and represents an increase in diversity, if you will. The high elevation lands in these mountains are fragile. There are plants that are slow growing. In many cases animal life is limited, and in these particular areas I think the concept, the classic concept of multiple use may be inappropriate.

Exploitative forms of use with the exception of grazing, hunting, and recreation tend to be single shot, single use affairs. In other words, mining is a one-time thing. When the mines are gone, the land suffers forever from what has happened. The same thing with logging, and I think that is one reason we do not have logging in Nevada. Nevada is the fastest growing State in the lower 48 in terms of population. And with the increase in population, we are also seeing an increase in mobility of people with the availability of four-wheel drive vehicles and so on.

We are seeing a lot more people using the areas which have been and are de facto wilderness, and the impacts are increasing at a great rate. If we intend to preserve these areas as they are today, we cannot just rely on benign neglect to do it. I think that we are going to have to have some form of statutory legal protection to limit man's vehicles and motorized forms of locomotion to be able to preserve these areas and their diversity.

And for that reason, I think it is important that we have a relatively large number of wilderness areas, more than one, more than

two, more than three, and for this reason I support and we support Harry Reid's bill and the larger number of wilderness areas that it encompasses.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Would you please continue?

STATEMENT OF EDNA THOMPSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. THOMPSON. I am Edna Thompson, a 37-year resident of the State of Nevada. Most of that time I have lived in Las Vegas, although I did live in Reno for a few years. I am retired now, but for 29 years I was employed by First Interstate Bank, formerly First National Bank. I do appreciate the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee and express my support for the designation of wilderness in Nevada. Although I support wilderness, I speak in opposition to S. 722 because I believe it does not protect an adequate number of wilderness lands.

For a time in the 1960's, my daughter lived on Mount Rose. When I visit that area today, the changes I find are dramatic. It no longer provides the environment that both she and I loved. Having observed the rapid growth and increased urbanization of both the northern and southern parts of the State, I believe it is imperative to set aside a big portion of our wilderness lands for the benefit of future generations.

Although I like to walk, I am not much of a hiker, and at this stage of my life I will probably not go very far into the Mount Charleston, Quinn Canyon, or Mount Rose wilderness areas, but I would like to know that they are there as they have always been, and to know that they can be enjoyed by today's children and their children and grandchildren. I believe that the creation of the Great Basin National Park in one of the proposed wilderness areas would be a benefit not only to our local residents but a benefit to tourism, our State's No. 1 industry.

The park would provide outdoor recreation for those who are not interested in the more primitive recreation that wilderness provides. As important as economic development is, I do not believe that man lives by bread alone. Solitude and inspiration afforded by nature in the pristine State is equally important, particularly in this rapidly changing high tech world of ours.

I urge the Senate to amend S. 722 to include in their bill as many of the 21 most deserving scenic areas as possible, and thus protect their pristine quality. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF TREVA CHRISTENBERRY SHARP, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. SHARP. I am Treva Cristenberry Sharp. I was born at Elnore, IN, January 14, 1911. I am 75 years of age this year. When I was about 3 years old, I saw southern Indiana ruined by unnecessary roads. We already had roads. The pioneers had rolled their wagons on the shale, struggling from one stretch of shale to the next. They had roads paved by nature most of the way. The Feds came. The Feds had never seen southern Indiana. They cut great scarps on the square of the township lines, and left them to wash in the rain.

They cut my grandfather's hill in two and left it to bleed in gulleys of yellow clay.

If we want our grandchildren to breathe and eat, we must defend our land from men who live far away, from men who have never seen the lay of the land, men whose brothers-in-law own heavy equipment or mining equipment, men who want to cut and dig and kill to enrich themselves. He who cuts a tree is causing a flood, and taking our very breath away.

When I learned his position, I wrote Congressman Harry Reid that I would change my Republican registration to vote for him.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

STATEMENT OF PAT DINGLE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DINGLE. I am Pat Dingle, a 24-year resident of Nevada, an owner and director of the Southern Atlanta Zoological Park, and I think I had better agree with this good lady. I support the Friends of the Nevada Wilderness, and I really have nothing else to add that you have not already heard today. But I would like to remind you of an observation made by Will Rogers that they do not make land any more, and I would urge you to support and protect as much as possible.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for appearing.

STATEMENT OF HARRY PAPAS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. PAPAS. My name is Harry Papas, and I am an avid outdoor user in southern Nevada.

Honorable Senator, committee members, I strongly oppose the wilderness bills and national parks bills pending before Congress for the State of Nevada.

Senator, I along with many friends and colleagues know any proposal now passed will eventually result in the loss of trail driving, shooting, and hunting in the proposed areas. When Government agencies are directed by Congress to administer programs, the outcomes invariably are rules and regulations drafted by these agencies that go far beyond what Congress had originally intended.

These agencies will implement rules and regulations which in effect act as pseudo laws enacted by Federal agencies that were neither elected nor approved by the people. These quasi rules and regulations become for all intents and purposes the laws of the Nation. The examples are all around us. One only has to travel a few miles from here to the Red Rock area to see how the Bureau of Land Management has greatly restricted the use of the land.

In 1975, the BLM was not satisfied to close 61,500 acres in the Red Rock Basin. It now, just last month saw fit to appropriate another 500 acres in the Brownstone Canyon in the guise of calling all 62,000 acres recreation land. They have their own set of values as to how the people should now use the land.

One of the BLM laws is the banning of all firearms in these so-called recreation lands, in effect, outright gun control, a law that only our elected representatives are believed to have power to implement. However, under the guise of recreation lands, the BLM

appropriated thousands of acres, and then proceeded to write their own pseudo gun control laws, oblivious of Congress. It is a mistake to believe that the majority of the people of Nevada want their land appropriated by the BLM or the Forest Service.

No, we do not believe in passing on land to the BLM or Forest Service, as in the Red Rock area, will eventually be closed to trail driving, shooting, and hunting.

Senator and committee members, in closing, let me say this. It is simply a travesty to close the land from the vast majority of the people who actually used the land to satisfy the whims of a few. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. That is everyone, I assume. I have just been informed another hour and a half has passed, and so we are going to have a 5-minute break.

[Recess taken.]

Senator HECHT. Everyone please take your seats. We are going to go right on along.

Mr. BEVINETTO. I call the next panel: Richard Douglas, Francis Garvey, Patrick Leary, Donna London, Larry Skelly, Robert Maichle, Steve Parsons, and Joel Hansen, who is on panel 13.

OK, let us move on to panel 21. I'd like to invite them to come on up to the witness table: Sandra Scott, Peter Startweather, Roy Evans, Gay Kauffman, and Randal Grandstaff.

Are you on panel 21?

VOICE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Well, you all come on up.

Senator HECHT. Well, sir, we will start with you over there on the end.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD DOUGLAS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DOUGLAS. Good afternoon. I'm Richard Douglas. I'm a 25-year resident of Las Vegas, a consulting engineer by profession. I am representing myself before this hearing.

I am generally in favor of wilderness designation for remote areas of Nevada's Forest Service lands, because I think it is extremely important to preserve wild areas for the future. I specifically support the 21 areas recommended by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, or at least the amount of wilderness included in H.R. 3302. I am definitely opposed to Senate bill 722, because I think it is entirely inadequate.

I am a hunter, and I would like to offer my comments today in regard to the effect of wilderness on hunting. I don't believe that wilderness designation for these 21 areas will seriously impair my enjoyment or the enjoyment of the majority of other hunters.

Over the years, I have hunted deer extensively in several locations which are near areas of wilderness designation. These locations include Mount Moriah in the Snake Range, Mount Jefferson in the Toquima Range, the Ruby Mountains, and the Schell Creek Range. The designation of the wilderness areas would have very little adverse effect on the great majority of Nevada deer hunters.

I say this because it has been my observation over the years that a very large percentage of deer hunting is done within a mile or so of established roads. Relatively few hunters hunt very far from ac-

cessible roads. If they do, they are usually horseback hunters or what I call serious hunters, who are willing and able to carry a deer out in a backpack.

Another group of hunters are those who may shoot a deer some distance from a road, use a Jeep, dirt bike, or three-wheeler to go cross country to pack it out. This is a very popular and labor-saving method of hunting, but I'm not in favor of it because of the damage it does to the land and because I believe that vehicles should only be operated on roads or trails. Also, it is annoying to have to spend the time and effort to hike some distance away from the road, only to have a motorized vehicle come roaring by.

While I do not know exactly there the wilderness boundary lines will be drawn in all cases, I don't believe the wilderness designation will have much adverse effect on either type of hunter. I am sure that the majority of the popular deer hunting terrain in Nevada will not be included in the wilderness, because it contains existing roads and therefore is not suitable for wilderness designation. Therefore, the hunters who wish to use Jeeps and three-wheelers will not be restricted in these areas. Likewise, those who wish to hunt in more remote areas will be able to do so without the likelihood of disturbance by motorized vehicles.

Therefore, I urge the Senate to designate 21 wild scenic areas of our national forest land as wilderness and thus preserve them for our future use.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF DONNA LONDON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. LONDON. Good afternoon, Senator Hecht. My name is Donna London, and most of the prowilderness testimony here verifies what I believe in and so I would like to throw in my support with Congressman Reid's bill, H.R. 3302.

I sympathize with the people who would be affected, like the ranchers, by grazing land being possibly taken away or curtailed, if that would happen. Their lifestyle I feel very envious of, because they are with nature every day.

I don't feel that the BLM has managed a lot of land here in Nevada conservatively. From what I've read, they have in the past—I don't know if it's carried out today—chained pinyon pine trees to make grazing land for cattle. Both pinyon pine nuts and cattle are a protein source, and it seems ridiculous to destroy one for the other, and not being a meat eater I prefer the first.

And I think that's all I'd like to say. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and you have really broadened my view by having these hearings. Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I think it has broadened all of our views, and that is the whole purpose of it. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT W. MAICHLE ON BEHALF OF THE MOTORCYCLE RACING ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

Mr. MAICHLE. Senator, my name is Bob Maichle and I was originally going to speak on behalf of just the Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada. But I spoke to Walt Bott, who was scheduled to

be here, and he asked me to speak for him. He represents the High Desert Racing Association. They put on events such as the Frontier 500, and this year they will be putting on the Mid-400 Races that bring millions of dollars to the State of Nevada, and races that involve tens of thousands of spectators.

The Motorcycle Racing Association has over 1,000 members that we consider of our organization, and to some of our events we bring over 3,000. The reason I say this is that it's significant that we would speak out for wilderness.

This association of off-road racers supports responsible resource management, including wilderness where appropriate. Only by respecting the rights of others can we expect a fair deal ourselves. Fairness for all and not selfish extremism is the key to good land management.

Why are we speaking out for wilderness? The strength of this Nation is the equal and fair treatment of all of our citizens. The demands of special interests must be tempered with concern for the general good. A fair deal for wilderness is the right deal.

There are those who think that Nevada is a wasteland, good only for locating things nobody else wants. Wilderness tells the Nation what Nevadans already know. Wilderness is more than a statement of our values today. It is our obligation to future generations.

But the only real reason for wilderness is the proper management of the public trust. Certain public lands are best managed with wilderness designation, the best management for both optimal use today and as an investment for tomorrow.

Congressman Seiberling suggested lands that are not appropriate. S. 722 excludes lands that are most definitely appropriate. H.R. 3302 considers mining, recreation, preservation, utilization, and the public as a whole. I would consider that a fair deal, a fair deal to all.

Californication is a word used in the West to describe the selfish pursuit of special interests without the slightest regard to the rights of others. S. 722 is as extreme as that of Congressman Seiberling. Both fail to respect other reasonable positions. Both place special interests above the general good.

We, the Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada and the High Desert Racing Association, urge you: Don't Californicate Nevada. Give wilderness a fair deal.

I urge you to read our written testimony in full. I truly believe it represents the majority of Nevadans.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Maichle follows:]

Submitted by: Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada
Robert W. Maichle
4221 West Arby Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-5107

This is written on behalf of the Motorcycle Racing Association of Nevada (MRAN) which is an off-road racing organization. MRAN is made up of desert racers and their families. There are about 1000 members of our organization. MRAN supports responsible resource management and that includes Wilderness designation where such designation is appropriate. It is only by respecting the rights of others that we can expect fair treatment ourselves. A fair deal, not selfish extremism, is the key to good land management. Legislation that is grossly inequitable to any segment of the population is not good for Nevada. A fair deal for wilderness is a fair deal for all of Nevada.

Some 20 years ago it became apparent to the motorized recreation users of our public lands that we shared similar environmental concerns with organizations that in other states were vocal enemies. Here, in Nevada, organizations like SNORE and the Sierra Club cooperated. One example, these diverse organizations worked together to remove the trash littering the Red Rocks Recreation Area. Nevadans, by working together, have allowed the various government agencies to function, not hindered by diverse public opinions.

Elsewhere, there are States where government must function by some homeostatic process of addressing the squeaking wheel. Time and money are squandered, resources lost, and public angered because of the polemic positions of people and organizations. Just across the border in California almost every action taken by federal agencies was challenged in Court often by both the environmentalists and off-roaders. The ultimate loser is the taxpayer who must pay for the injunctions, the appeals, the defense of the lawsuits. These court actions, so common in California, suggest that elsewhere there is more Law Management than Land Management. Can our nation afford both!

The strength of West and especially Nevada has always been to meet your neighbor eye to eye, to examine problems from all perspectives and to balance solutions so as to be fair to all. Here, in Nevada we sought communication and cooperation between all users of our public lands. The Sierra club didn't start racing dirt bikes nor the off-roaders picketing Du Pont but we do work together. Respect for other points of view leads to a fair deal for all. Criticism is exchanged because it is constructive and appreciated and the result is more than meaningful compromise, it is good resource management. Numerous problems are resolved without the federal expense so common elsewhere. Nevada organizations have come to expect fair treatment from Federal and State agencies. These agencies manage for the good of all, not that organization with the best lawyer.

Those of us in Nevada have worked for responsible resource management. There are many areas in Nevada presently being managed without motorized vehicles. The fact that an area is roadless does not in itself make it appropriate for wilderness designation anymore than the possibility of undiscovered mineral reserves should automatically reject it from wilderness consideration. There are areas in Nevada that are best managed with wilderness protection! Wilderness, once violated, is not easily repaired, so let us make every effort to be FAIR NOW.

This is more than a plea for a fair deal for wilderness. The people of Nevada should have primary input into what happens in Nevada. The evidence indicates that Nevada is not a wasteland, good only for locating things nobody else wants. We express serious concern that if areas that clearly deserve wilderness designation are not protected, then the radical environmental eyes of the nation will fall on Nevada. Nevada doesn't need that or any kind of selfish extremism.

Usually organizations closest to the problem and therefore most interested in a solution are the ones to champion their cause, but, when a such a gross inequity appears, all responsible organizations must speak out. A fair deal for Nevada means a fair deal for wilderness. Congressman Reid has suggested a fair deal in HR 3302. S 722 is as extreme as that proposed by Congressman Seiberling. Those of us in the West call the selfish striving for ones interests without the concern of others; californication. We the motorcycle racers of Nevada cry out: DON'T CALIFORNICATE NEVADA, GIVE WILDERNESS A FAIR DEAL!

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF MIKE MARKOFF, REPUBLICAN CLUB OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Mr. MARKOFF. I am Mike Markoff, lifelong cattleman, a miner, disabled veteran, a senior citizen, and the president of the Republican Club of Southern Nevada that was founded in 1963 to support Barry Goldwater for President in 1964. I came to Nevada in 1931.

Also, I want to represent the millions of preteenagers, teenagers, and those under 40. Ranchers are supposed to carefully watch their range lands and their livestock and make sure that conservation is maintained for their future operations. Miners carefully guard and protect their claims. But look at our ranges and our mining claims and you will see sad sights: a rape of the land.

Congressman Harry Reid's bill comes the closest to what is desired and we support that bill at this time. The Republican Club of Southern Nevada also supports Congressman Reid's bill. A piece of cake is better than no cake at all. The other bills are just crumbs, and we object to crumbs.

We need Teddy Roosevelt-type conservatives in Washington, who have foresight and the guts to do something about conserving our lands, our air and water, and other natural resources. Wilderness areas will protect land, air, and water.

The so-called conservatives in Washington today are by their very actions of not protecting our natural resources of land, air, and water, et cetera, are not conservatives at all, but in reality they are ultra-liberal businessmen in Hollywood makeup.

Look back over the past 100 years and see how we have raped our lands, our air, our water, and our wildlife. Then look ahead 100 years and guess what will remain. Possibly today's politicians don't expect our Nation to be here 100 years from now.

To show how stupid things are done in Washington by narrow-minded politicians, let me cite an example. Former Congressman Jim Santini had bills passed to sell BLM lands in and around Las Vegas and the funds used to buy private lands to protect Lake Tahoe.

The BLM lands should have been kept as they were and used for parks and recreation. At the same time Jim Santini was allegedly protecting Lake Tahoe, he was not protecting the Colorado River frontage in the southern part of Clark County or parks and recreation around Las Vegas. The river frontage was sold to a handful of private businessmen. Those handful businessmen raped the public's river.

I suggest that Congress be farsighted and use good judgment in passing bills, but include in bills how we must cooperate amongst ourselves. Cooperation is the key to the outer edges of wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thanks, Mike.

STATEMENT OF JOEL HANSEN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Senator. My name is Joel Hansen. I'm a native of Nevada.

Senator, if you visit the Governor's mansion in Springfield, IL, you'll see a portrait of Patrick Henry because Patrick Henry, as the first Governor of the State of Illinois, governed the region of land that's now known as Illinois.

At that time, Virginia and the other original States owned great tracts of Western land, but the people of Virginia and of the other States felt that the Western States should come into the Union on an equal footing and not as inferior stepchildren. So they deeded over their public lands, and the famous Northwest Ordinance made the equal footing doctrine a reality. The new States came into the Union as equals and they owned their own public lands, not the Federal Government.

But then we lost some of the spirit of fairness and equality, and so Nevada did not come into the Union on an equal footing. Instead, we're like Cinderella, a neglected stepdaughter, with only 13 percent of our rightful inheritance. Our parents and our sisters have deprived us of 87 percent of our lands.

The people of Nevada, through their legislature, have twice voted to have the Federal lands in Nevada turned over to the State. Once, when Graham Sawyer was Governor of Nevada, our legislature passed the Liberty amendment and Governor Sawyer signed it, saying that he would like to be Governor of a whole State just for once.

More recently, our legislature passed a bill known as the Sagebrush Rebellion, which again would have given people in Nevada their rightful title to the public lands.

Senator, the message seems clear. People in Nevada don't want more Federal control over our lands; we want less Federal control. Indeed, this is the message of the whole Reagan revolution: Less Federal control, more local control. It seems that a tiny vocal minority, the Sierra Club and their friends, have never gotten that simple message.

Senator, even your bill does bring about more Federal control. So I'd like to propose an amendment to your bill, to add the provision that for every acre of land placed into wilderness status that a matching acre of land be deeded to the State of Nevada, so that we can begin to put Nevada onto an equal footing with our sister States and so that the vast majority of Nevadans at least can be on an equal footing with this tiny but vocal minority who want to keep all of our wilderness areas to themselves.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GAY KAUFFMAN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. KAUFFMAN. My name is Gay Kauffman and I came to Nevada 43 years ago as a World War II bride. My husband was a B–17 pilot stationed at Indian Springs. We were immediately fascinated by this land, and the fascination continues to this day.

I speak in favor of the bill H.R. 3302. Throughout our long marriage, my husband and I valued our wilderness experiences of communing with nature. In this land of infinite variety, such experiences have made it possible to contemplate what's really important

and to get in touch with oneself. Perhaps it's helped to make a long marriage possible.

Today, earlier a speaker spoke about the whims of emotion govering the environmentalist support of wilderness. This is an emotional issue, and my support of the Reid bill is not a whim.

I am here today because it's been so often said that maintaining undeveloped wilderness discriminates against older people and that seniors are against it. Here's a senior speaking out for it. It's been good today to hear other older people speak in favor of increased wilderness.

I am emotional in saying that it is important to us that the ecological balance be maintained and that the rights of wildlife be considered, and that wilderness be there for future generations of people and wildlife.

Coyotes have been mentioned a couple of times today, and one woman spoke about the devastation they wreaked at Bayfield, CO. We had a summer home in Bayfield for some 25 years and I really never heard any incidents such as a child being killed by coyotes.

At one point, the ranchers put out poison and we lost a very nice basset hound. But I mean, that's the only thing I can think of, and somebody else mentioned coyotes.

We're really very concerned that the wilderness be maintained for the future.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF SANDRA MOORE SCOTT, RENO, NV

Ms. SCOTT. Good afternoon. My name is Sandra Moore Scott and I'm from Reno.

I address this hearing as an individual deeply concerned about the future of the wilderness areas of the State of Nevada. There has been a lot said on this issue and I feel that I understand both the pros and the cons. I'm not here to convince you of anything, but simply to remind you that we are caretakers of this Earth. Our opinions will matter very little to generations to come who have no land untouched by humanity. There will only be an anger and a sense of loss that they are not free to embrace what we have taken for granted.

We can give nature in the State the respect it deserves by ensuring that at least a small 2 percent would be protected, as proposed by the bill. I love Nevada and that love stems from the opportunities of spending many hours being in the solitude of the wilderness. I believe it is a moral responsibility to give that opportunity to the future.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF RANDAL GRANDSTAFF ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA ALPINE CLUB

Mr. GRANDSTAFF. Good afternoon, gentlemen. My name is Randal Grandstaff. I was born at Nellis Air Force Base and I'm a resident of Callico Basin. I'm approaching you as an individual, although I am representing a couple of other different organizations; namely,

the American Professional Mountain Guides Association and the American Alpine Club.

I am the sole professional mountaineer alpine guide in the State of Nevada, by which I mean I make my living guiding people on mountain trips, mountain excursions, throughout the Earth, OK, more particularly, here at home, just west of town in the Red Rocks.

I am, obviously, for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, for several reasons, the foremost being that I feel that this is really an important issue because so many things are at stake here. My business involves many different aspects of dealing with the State of Nevada. I have contracts with the State of Nevada, the U.S. Government, and the Department of Defense, and I take tremendous pride and pleasure in serving these people.

Now, I find it very distressing that they, in fact, won't serve the citizens of this great country and the people of this State. Now, there are two cogent points that I think need to be pointed out here and made to you, one being that "Nevada" translates from the Spanish to English meaning "snow-capped," and there are over 360 independently named ranges of mountains in the State of Nevada, more so than any other State in the Union, excluding Alaska.

But this all indicates that our State has a special heritage that perhaps nobody else in the Union shares, and I think I feel it's about time that these people in Washington, including yourselves, should try to do something to represent the people here.

Now, there's been a lot of misrepresentations and ignorant postures about wilderness use, and I really find this distressing because there are so many people that are at odds against normal—I mean, they feel that unless you're—I mean, you can't help it that handicapped people and other folks that aren't able to go out and enjoy all the beautiful scenery in the wilderness and everything are unfortunately saddled with this burden.

However, you know, this is like a real unfortunate circumstance for them. But basically what I'm trying to get at is that the rest of the people that oppose this, I never see them out there. You know, I travel the State all over. I've been to almost every one of these places where these wilderness areas are proposed, and I really see it.

It concerns me that these people put down the wilderness, because they don't understand it. The wilderness is a consciousness or a state of mind, and I can't help it if these people don't want to go out there and partake of this beauty. It's a very ignorant attitude to assess it that it's just for a special interest group, like myself and a few other people.

I find this very, very just not really representing what the whole wilderness value and ethic is about. You know, it's time we see some representation in Washington that truly represents our people, because I feel that most of them are definitely behind us.

Senator HECHT. You will have to summarize.

Mr. GRANDSTAFF. Surely, sir.

All I can say is that I've been lucky. I've been able to stand on the great mountains, like Everest, K–2, and I've climbed 20,000-foot-plus peaks in the Himalayas. But none of this means more to

me than being able to do that here in my home region, in the State of Nevada.

I do want to remind you that "Nevada" does mean "mountain," and I would like to see some responsibility from the administration in Washington for protecting this heritage for us.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, sir.

STATEMENT OF ROY B. EVANS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. EVANS. Senator Hecht and staff: My name is Roy Evans and I'm a 21-year resident of Las Vegas.

I favor a Nevada wilderness bill with provisions similar to those of H.R. 3302 as amended, with an additional six areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. I endorse this large wilderness bill both out of concern for maintaining wilderness recreational opportunities in Nevada and out of the belief that tourism attractions created by such a bill will add substantially to the Nevadan economy in the coming years.

An honest concern for the Nevada economy causes me to regard the area which would be designated under S. 722 as far too little. Nevada's tourist industry has sagged since the opening of the casinos in Atlantic City. Locally, there has been a call for economic diversification, focusing here in Las Vegas on high-techology industries.

I think that the Nevada wilderness bill also offers an unrecognized opportunity for economic diversification. In other States with substantial areas of national park lands and designated wilderness, wilderness and part-related tourism is an important economic asset.

Zion in Utah and the Grand Canyon in Arizona are nearby examples which support my point. However, the most striking example that I know of of the stimulation of tourism by the designation of parks and wilderness is in Alaska, where I grew up.

Following the designation of large areas of the State as wilderness and park land in 1980, an industry sprang up all across Alaska to provide services to a virtual flood of tourists. There are now guiding services, aircraft charter services, hotels, motels, restaurants, curio shops, and art boutiques in tiny villages all across the State, locations where the principal activities used to be hunting, fishing, and trapping.

This new economic activity devoted exclusively to parks and wilderness, and created in part by publicity related to the Alaska lands bill, is a more striking and visible impact than the growth of Anchorage and Fairbanks from the Alaska pipeline.

It has often been noted that Alaska and Nevada are similar in many respects: In their sparse populations, in their open space and wilderness resources, and in their politics. I suggest that the provisions of H.R. 3203 as amended present yet another possible parallel, giving us an opportunity for economic growth.

I urge your subcommittee to investigate and consider this possibility seriously.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Evans follows:]

STATEMENT OF ROY B. EVANS

BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

AND RESERVED WATERS

ON S. 722 AND H.R. 3302

14 FEBRUARY 1986

Senator Hecht, my name is Roy B. Evans and I am a resident of Las Vegas. I am speaking as a resident of Nevada and a user of wilderness. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on your bill S. 722, the Nevada Wilderness Bill. I would like to state at the outset that I favor a Nevada Wilderness Bill with provisions similar to those of H.R. 3302 as amended, which would designate as wilderness 14 areas totalling 939,000 acres and would create a 174,000-acre Great Basin National Park. In addition, I would like to see six additional areas designated as wilderness: the areas known as Elk Mountain, Excelsior Mountains, Grant Range, Pearl Peak, Sweetwater Mountains, and Toiyabe Crest, for a total area of about 1.5 million acres. I endorse this large wilderness bill both out of concern for maintaining wilderness recreational opportunities in Nevada and out of a belief that the tourist attractions created by such a bill will add substantially to the Nevadan economy in coming years.

Nevada has been my home for over 21 years, and I expect to remain here indefinitely. I live here by choice, not from economic necessity. The reason for choosing Nevada as my home is the environment that it offers - lots of open space and wilderness. During the years I've lived here, I've used that wilderness and open space as my primary escape from the 8-to-5 workaday world. On weekends I usually have headed for any of several areas near Las Vegas which offer spectacular hiking, going into lower-elevation areas below 2500 feet in

the winter when temperatures permit hiking in the desert, then moving into middle ranges of 3,000 to 7,000 feet in the spring and fall as desert valley temperatures increase, and finally moving into alpine areas about 8,500 feet in the summer, when the lower elevations are too hot for hiking. On longer vacations I've made longer backpacking trips, usually in the central and northern parts of Nevada where several remote mountain ranges under Forest Service management offer almost unparalleled opportunities for getting away from people and cities. Because of these open public lands with different elevation belts which allow hiking and outdoor activities at any time of the year, I've often referred to living in Las Vegas as "one of the best-kept secrets of the United States".

When I started hiking in Nevada in the mid-1960's, it was rare to meet people in the desert and the hills. But as time went on it became commonplace to encounter other people in the better-known areas; today the trails on Mt. Charleston are literally thronged with hikers throughout the summer. The recreation pressures on Red Rock a decade ago forced the creation of a state park for its protection. Other areas near Las Vegas, most notably Mt. Charleston, now need protection if they are to be saved as recreation resources. The population of the Las Vegas area alone exceeds the total population of the state when I moved here in 1964. This rising population has brought with it a demand for outdoor recreation and particularly wilderness recreation that needs to be recognized in planning public services for the next several decades. We need to plan, not with the 1986 Nevada population of about 1,000,000 in mind but thinking instead of the much larger populations of 2000 and even 2086 AD in mind. These larger populations will demand more wilderness than the 65,000

acres of the existing Jarbidge area plus the 137,000 acres which would be provided by S. 722.

An honest concern for the Nevada economy also causes me to regard the area which would be designated under S. 722 as too little. Nevada's tourist industry has sagged since the opening of casinos in Atlantic City. The rates of growth released last year by the Chamber of Commerce show Las Vegas lagging behind other comparably-sized metropolitan areas. Legalization of gambling has been seriously considered by other states lately, which would probably further siphon off tourism from Nevada. Locally there has been a call for economic diversification, focusing on high-tech industries. I think that the Nevada Wilderness Bill also offers an opportunity for economic diversification. In other states with substantial areas of national park lands and designated wilderness, wilderness- and park-related tourism is an important economic asset. Zion in Utah and the Grand Canyon in Arizona are nearby examples which support substantial tourism. The contribution of Lake Mead National Recreation Area to the southern Nevada economy is also substantial.

The most striking example of the stimulation of tourism by the designation of parks and wilderness is in Alaska, where I grew up. Following the designation of large areas of the state as wilderness and parkland in 1980, an industry has sprung up all across Alaska to provide services to a virtual flood of tourists. There are now guiding services, aircraft charter services, hotels, motels, restaurants, and curio and art boutiques in tiny villages all across the state, at locations where the principal activities used to be hunting, fishing, and trapping. This new economic activity devoted exclusively to parks and wilderness, and created in part by publicity related to the Alaska Lands Bill,

is a more striking impact than the growth of Anchorage and Fairbanks from the Alaska Pipeline. It has often been noted that Alaska and Nevada are similar in many respects: in their sparse populations, in their open space and wilderness resources, and in their politics. I suggest that the provisions of H.R. 3302, as amended, present another possible parallel in opportunity for economic growth, and I urge your subcommittee to consider this possibility seriously.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

I just want to ask one question for the panel. Mike, you and I have been in Republican politics for over 25 years, and I do have a couple of friends in different Republican clubs. Which club is it? That club has not communicated with me. Which club is it you're talking about?

Mr. MARKOFF. This is the Republican Club of Southern Nevada, that's been in existence since 1963.

Senator HECHT. Do they have a formal declaration on that or anything, or a letter like that, or anything to communicate to me?

Mr. MARKOFF. No; we don't operate that way, and I'll tell you on the side how we do it.

Senator HECHT. Every Republican club I know operates in the open.

Mr. MARKOFF. OK, Chic, I'll tell you how it is. Our Republican—see, back in 1963 and 1964 when we were helping Senator Laxalt in his Governor's race, we took in people who belonged to a republic. This Nation is a republic, and that's where it's a Republican club. We have many Democrats in the Republican Club of Southern Nevada.

Senator HECHT. I see. Could you explain that a little bit more, because we have members of the press here and I think you should explain that.

Mr. MARKOFF. Well, the press has been to a lot of my things in many years. But we kind of stay under cover until there's a big issue and things go, and then we come out.

Senator HECHT. Well, most Republican clubs are happy to have Democrats come and join them.

Mr. MARKOFF. Well, the Republican club that was formed that meets out at the hotel out on the strip was formed to kind of counteract ours, because really we take a view of things, Chic, of what is really good for all of us.

I've been here since 1931, and for years I tried to get this whole valley straightened out, and look at the raping of it. It's a mess. They let people come in, build, tear down. The roads are all screwed up. And if you'd seen it 40 or 50 years ago, when we were building the dam out here, you would have looked at that—springs everywhere, hot and cold springs, beautiful sand dunes.

And now look at it. Go out to the lake and look down here every morning like I do, and look over at the valley here and see what a mess, and you have to drive into it.

We have this growth coming, so let's protect it for future generations. Look back 100 years, like I say, and then look 100 years forward. We better. We better be wise. We better look way ahead.

And like I say, if we haven't learned, see, and say New York is hit with an A-bomb and we have to use some of this land for something, don't worry, Washington will work on an emergency procedure and we'll use it if we have to. But if we don't, preserve it. It's in the bank.

We're conservatives. You and I are conservatives. Let's conserve some of this.

Senator HECHT. Using the prerogative of the Chair, Mike and I are old friends and he was coming up and giving me the devil, so I promised him an extra 2 minutes.

Thank you very much. Let us go on to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. The next panel is panel 22. Lea Deane, Charles Hallock, Richard Schallawski, Roberta Fitzgibbons, Dick Bobertz, John or Glade Koch, and James Deacons. And you can bring me the testimony.

Senator HECHT. Let us start on this end, the gentleman in the back. Would you start, please?

STATEMENT OF S. MAHLON EDWARDS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes; I am Mahlon Edwards. I'm a third generation Nevadan. My children are fourth generation.

I can sympathize with the ranchers; I own some pasture land up in Lincoln County that's been in the county now for 60 years. I can sympathize with the miner; I own some unpatented mining claims from which I have received royalties for silver that was mined there. I can sympathize with the hunters; my father, who previously addressed you, took me hunting and I shot my first deer in Lincoln County in 1948.

I can sympathize with the off-road recreation vehicle people; I've owned a four-wheel drive vehicle for 20 years. At one time, while in private practice of law, I represented 10 or more Nevada mining companies. I understand what their interests are. I have also seen what they have done to the land. I've seen them bring in out-of-State people interested in tax writeoffs mostly for exploration. I've seen them bulldoze roads and build drill sites and leach pads and abandon them and leave the earth scarred.

I believe there is room in Nevada for balance. I believe that if the Arc Dome, if the Rubies, if Wheeler Peak, Charleston Peak, all of which I have visited this year, are left to private interests, they will be ruined. One of the things that bothers me a little bit about the mining people, they can stake an unpatented mining claim. They can take a bulldozer in and knock down the bristlecones or whatever happens to be there, do their assessment work, and then put up a no trespassing sign saying "private property." This somewhat offends me. I don't believe it is private property, and yet merely by destruction of it, they claim it.

I would rather see—not that I am in favor of big government, but I would rather see the government set that land aside for the people so that it can't be abused by government or anyone else, either for the storage of nuclear waste or for bombing ranges or for irresponsible treasure hunters. I don't believe that by establishing a wilderness site the Government is taking property from Nevada. I believe it's giving it back.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Edwards follows:]

WILDERNESS

I am Mahlon Edwards, 1705 Westwind Road, Las Vegas. I was born in Las Vegas and am a third generation Nevadan, my children are 4th generation.

I can sympathize with the ranchers. I pay taxes in Lincoln County for pasture land I own there.

I can sympathize with the miner. I hold some unpatented lode mining claims in Nye County and have paid taxes or royalties from silver produced from Nevada Mines.

I can sympathize with the hunters and those who enjoy outdoor recreation. I killed my first deer in 1948 in Lincoln County and have hunted in Lincoln, White Pine and Elko Counties. I have owned a four-wheel drive vehicle for 20 years and love to roam the back roads and explore.

When I was in the private practice of law, at one time, I represented over ten mining and exploration companies, and I witnessed the unreclaimed damage they did to Nevada's High Desert in search for tax write-offs by exploiting the land, building roads, drill sites and leach piles.

There is room in Nevada for balance. Nevada is unique as a great basin state, provides mountain islands in the desert with water, animals, and a type of beauty which cannot be fixed once its broken. In ten minutes a bulldozer can destroy a 3000 year old bristlecone pine, which will never be replaced.

Congressman Reid's proposal allows those who have grandfathers in existing property interests, but in balance, it will preserve Nevada's beauty from further exploitation by the Government through enlarging its Nuclear Dumps or Bombing Ranges and protect Nevada's irreplaceable treasures from foreign treasure hunters who destroy while searching, and seldom find enough to repair the damage they do.

By making wilderness, the Congress is not taking property from the citizens of the State. They are finally giving us some for everyone's use and enjoyment.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GLADE KOCH, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. KOCH. Senator Hecht, my name is Glade Koch, and my husband and I moved from the eastern United States to Nevada 17 years ago. Before we moved to the State, I was an elementary school teacher for 13 years in Ohio, Michigan, and Washington, DC. My major interest area in elementary education was social studies, fifth grade geography, and history of the United States, to be specific.

Every year for 13 years, I studied with fifth graders, along with other regions, the Western States of the United States. The State of Nevada's particular characteristics that made it different from other States was its lack of man's influence, the lack of fences, cultivation and roads, and its many mountain ranges and high forests. Fifth grade children were very interested in the fact that, in Nevada there are still mountain lions, wild lands with no people or very few people.

When we moved to southern Nevada we found that indeed Nevada still has some of what is left of wild America. We also found that many Nevadans take their portion of wild America entirely for granted. The wilderness qualities are unique and beautiful to easterners. They should not be neglected but preserved for the rest of the fifth graders and their families of the future so they can see and know that wild America is not extinct.

Presently, I am a volunteer tour guide at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park at Red Rock Canyon. We volunteers guide busloads of tourists who are on convention through that lovely BLM and State-managed land. Again, easterners and also foreigners visiting Nevada are fascinated by our open space and wild America as it has been for thousands of years.

Because of the foregoing, I speak for H.R. 3302. It has a vision for the rapidly increasing population and it has consideration for future generations of Americans, for Nevada's future tourists from crowded eastern States and densely populated nations of the world. I wish future Nevadans to be able to offer them wilderness America.

I would also like to commend or recommend creation of Great Basin National Park in Nevada. The major geographic region, the Great Basin, needs interpretation through a national park. Among our neighboring States, surely Nevada should attain ranking too with one national park. Utah has four national parks; Arizona has two; and California has three, with a fourth probably to be added soon. The park will provide another economic base where mining has moved out.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF DICK BOBERTZ, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BOBERTZ. Good afternoon, Senator and members of the committee, my name is Dick Bobertz and I represent myself as a 7-year Nevada resident.

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I recognize this issue has many emotional aspects, as many issues do, but I suggest that the issue itself should be considered with respect to the principles of good business management. Those principles require conservation of a certain amount of capital in order to maintain options and essentially keep from going broke. It certainly is arguable how much capital is necessary to conserve in a given situation, but I believe more conservative business people choose to maximize their capital.

I think Senate bill 722 proposes spending an injudicious amount of our wilderness capital. I, therefore, support the House bill as the more conservative and appropriate approach for Nevada's future. When the rest of the State becomes developed, we can consider the 1 or 2 percent of our State remaining in wilderness, if we preserve it now. The value of that wilderness will be much clearer in the future than it is now.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD SCHALLAWSKI, BOULDER CITY, NV

Mr. SCHALLAWSKI. Senator, my name is Richard Schallawski. I am a resident of Boulder City here in Nevada.

Most of what I had to say today has already been said. Let me say that I am in general support of Congressman Reid's bill and subscribe pretty closely to the remarks made by the gentleman representing the High Desert Racing Association and the motorcyclists. I feel that Congressman Reid's bill represents an appropriate balance of the conflicting interests and is more or less along the lines of what is necessary and desirable for Nevada.

I also am in agreement with the remarks of several of the other people here in these past couple of panels who have emphasized the benefits to tourism of the wilderness areas in general and national parks in particular. I think this is going to become more and more a factor in the future.

I am also a supporter of doing some planning before developing, which has been brought up here in these last couple of panels. If you just let these things take care of themselves, you end up with a mess, as the gentleman from the Republican club stated.

I am also in favor of a diversified economy for Nevada. It was somewhat interesting to me to hear mining referred to as a diversification of our economy. Mining is not; it's something that's always been here. Very important in the past, it's decreasing now. It will become less and less important in the future.

I feel that to lock up or fail to preserve a substantial portion or a significant portion of our remaining wilderness on the basis of the decline in industry is foolish and should not be done.

We heard testimony also today by a gentleman who was facing problems with his helicopter ski operation in the Ruby Mountains. I would like to say that I do not find a helicopter-ski operation in that one location inconsistent with the wilderness. As he pointed out, he makes minimal impact. He lands for a couple of seconds, lets the people off and goes. That's it. He also uses the area during a nonpeak or minimal use time in the winter, when most other people will not be using it. I would tend to favor grandfathering or

adopting a bill that would allow helicopter skiing in that one area of the Ruby Mountains.

Let me say in concluding that I am wildly in favor of a national park at Wheeler Peak. I feel that that area has a substantial amount of beauty going for it. I took my father up there this year and he didn't realize anything like that existed in Nevada.

Senator HECHT. You have to summarize. Have you finished?

Mr. SCHALLAWSKI. Yes, I have. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Senator HECHT. Yes. Thank you for coming.

STATEMENT OF ROBERTA FITZGIBBONS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. FITZGIBBONS. My name is Roberta Bobbye Fitzgibbons, a 20-year resident, an avid hunter and fisherman/woman in the State of Nevada for the past 10 years, a wife and mother of four, a stepmother of four and a grandmother of four. My husband, a 35-year resident, and myself have raised all of our children to be outdoors people interested in nature, hunting, camping, hiking, fishing, and skiing. I have done all of these things and appreciate the wilderness of Jarbidge. I am also not just an outdoors person, but interested in society and community, and am president of the Las Vegas Valley Soroptimist Club.

I appreciate the Senate subcommittee having these hearings in the State of Nevada. I am speaking against bill S. 722. I believe that we all should leave more wilderness than is asked for in this bill.

I do not believe that asking and leaving for future generations of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren more wilderness will lock out mining interests or that wilderness is just for a select few. Roads into wilderness areas are not necessary, as I, a woman have walked and hunted, shot deer and dragged it several miles to the nearest road before it is picked up. If it became necessary to, I could half or quarter the deer and drag it out a piece at a time.

Most jeeps that go on jeep trails have people that are drinking too much and not taking care about the other person in the field. There are almost no aluminum can wastes in areas where there are no roads, compared with hunting area roads, which are profusely littered.

Therefore, I urge the Senate subcommittee to look into having more wilderness than less wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GWENETH DenDOOVEN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. DENDOOVEN. I am Gweneth Reed DenDooven, resident of Las Vegas for 15 years. I have been closely associated with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service, since 1955 as an employee of the National Park Service, and, since 1971, as publisher, editor and coauthor of some 40 books on nature-related subjects, in particular a series on national parks subtitled "The Story Behind the Scenery," which includes parks from Maine to Hawaii and from Alaska to the Virgin Islands. Thus, I believe I am familiar

with the natural areas of the United States and know what they mean to Americans from all walks of life.

I support H.R. 3302, which I believe is an attempt to deal genuinely with the wilderness issue, in contrast to Senate bill 722, which is woefully inadequate, does not represent the will of the people, and appears to have as its principal purpose the subversion of efforts to attain a legitimate and lasting resolution of the wilderness question.

Of particular interest to me is the proposed Great Basin National Park, which encompasses transition zones that rise from sagebrush desert to mountain meadows, providing a haven for some very uncommon animals, represents a geologic history of 50 million years, and a human history of 10,000 years. And it has some of the most fascinating and beautiful cave formations that are present in the United States.

I believe we are very fortunate to have this in our State boundaries and that gives us a particular responsibility. From a purely economic point of view, this would benefit citizens in the surrounding areas in countless ways, far eclipsing the benefits now received by the narrow mining, grazing, and hunting interests.

I don't believe there has ever been a national park area that was not vigorously opposed in the beginning by the very people that ultimately benefit from it the most financially and in every other way. In fact, one of the problems that go with administering national parks is too much commercialism. Hotels, restaurants—the list that the man named before—souvenir shops, clothing stores, camera stores, doctors, dentists, even ministers, benefit. Job multiply in roads, utilities, construction, maintenance, cooking—jobs that feed many families, jobs for men, women and teenagers—river tours, jeep tours, and the list goes on and on.

As for the wilderness issue in general, the public has been misled to believe that it is the pet project of clean-air purists and does not reflect the needs of the majority of people. A vocal minority, in its zeal to protect limited interests, has twisted the concept to mean a lockup, resulting in playgrounds for a few rugged individuals.

It is my fear that our lawmakers will act for these vocal few simply because they are the ones who do speak. If this comes to pass, then our lawmakers will have seriously misconstrued the will of the people and passed a wilderness bill that falls far short of what is needed and wanted.

I believe that I and others here today represent the sign on the door, if you will, and are precisely the ones who are most likely to use and appreciate the wilderness areas to the fullest. Please help us to preserve the precious wealth that we all have been given in the Nevada wilderness lands, to use it well, and to give it in turn to others—the future citizens of Nevada and the Nation.

Please reject Senate bill 722 and support House bill 3302. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. DenDooven follows:]

February 14, 1986
Senate Field Hearing, Las Vegas
S. 722, Nevada Wilderness

I am Gweneth DenDooven, resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, for fifteen years. I have been closely associated with the U. S. Forest Service and the National Park Service since 1955--first as a "Forest Service wife," then as an employee of the National Park Service, and--since 1971--as publisher and editor of KC Publications, Inc. In this last capacity I co-authored and edited some forty books on nature- and Indian-related subjects, in particular a series on national parks subtitled "The Story Behind the Scenery," which includes parks from Maine to Hawaii and from Alaska to the Virgin Islands. Thus I believe I am familiar with the natural areas of the United States and know how much they mean to Americans from all walks of life.

I support H.R. 3302, which I believe is an attempt to deal genuinely with the wilderness issue, in contrast to S. 722, which is woefully inadequate, does not represent the will of the people, and appears to have as its principal purpose the subversion of efforts to attain a legitimate and lasting resolution to the wilderness question.

Of particular interest to me is the proposed Great Basin National Park. I have visited Lehman Caves National Monument and the adjoining Wheeler Peak Scenic Area of the Humboldt National Forest many times. I have also visited other cave areas, such as Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Jewel and Wind caves in South Dakota. Although better known, these caves don't begin to compare in beauty and in the number, variety, and exquisiteness of their cave formations to the caves we have right here in Nevada, Lehman Caves. The adjacent topography encompasses transition zones that rise from sagebrush desert to pinyon-juniper forests to mountain meadows, providing a haven for some very uncommon animals and representing a geologic history of five million years (five periods of glaciation) and a human history that dates back 10,000 years.

I believe we Nevadans are fortunate to have such an exceptional area within our state boundaries and that we therefore have the responsibility to promote the best use of its resources. Elevation of the area to national-park status would much more effectively achieve this than its present use. From a purely economic point of view as well, such a step would benefit citizens in the surrounding areas in countless ways, far eclipsing the benefits now received by the narrow mining, grazing, and hunting interests.

I don't believe there has ever been a national-park area that was not vigorously opposed in the beginning--by the very people that ultimately benefit from it the most--financially and in every other way. In fact, one of the

problems that go with administering national parks is too much commercialism. Motels, restaurants, gift shops, rock shops, souvenir shops, laundries, bookstores, grocery stores, clothing stores, camera stores. Doctors, dentists, even ministers benefit. Jobs multiply in roads, utilities, construction, as well as maintenance, cooking, etc. Jobs that feed many families. Jobs for men, women, and teen-agers. River tours, jeep tours, helicopter tours, mule tours. The list goes on and on.

As for the wilderness issue in general, I believe that the public has been misled to believe that it is the pet project of clean-air purists and does not reflect the needs of the majority of people. A vocal minority, in its zeal to protect its own limited interests, has twisted the wilderness concept to mean a "lock-up," resulting in playgrounds for a few rugged individuals.

Perhaps it is time to clarify the wilderness concept, so that it more accurately reflects the truth. In doing so, we admit that ardent conservationists have denigrated the term "multiple use," associating it with visions of axes flying, machines ripping into earth, meadows trampled and charred, animals gunned down. This is not use but destruction. "Use," we of course know, implies employing to our advantage. But there is the further implication that that which we are using will remain intact. We therefore use a book, a painting, a sculpture, the mind of another. But we replace the book on the shelf, frame the painting, elevate the sculpture, give a thought back for a thought.

And so we are not talking about locking up a large part of Nevada in a wilderness vacuum, in which time stands still. This is as extreme as referring to multiple use as wholesale destruction. We are talking about intelligent and appreciative use that allows all of us a measure of physical fun, sensual pleasure, and intellectual stimulation, aside from allowing for controlled grazing, mining, and hunting.

So it is all of the people we consider when we speak in support of H.R. 3302: you and I and our own unpretentious desires to enjoy, to use what has been provided to us as our own evironment. Not untouched, not locked up. And, yes, guarded, preserved, conserved, and all those other lofty terms with which we like to cloak our motives. But also used--by us, for us: we who exist now as well as the great numbers of people, all part of ourselves, who will come after us.

Will they see, as we see, the spectacular cleft of a Nevada canyon; the aspen shimmering into gold? Will they hear, as we hear, the crashing of a Nevada waterfall, the profound quiet of one of its caves? Will they feel, as we feel, the rough exterior of trees that are a miracle of antiquity? And will they sense, as we sense in the fastness of a Nevada wilderness meadow, herds of

antelope leaping rhythmically through time?

Our natural heritage is not our right, as I see it. It is a gift--not to be used up but to use as we would use a Mozart, Rembrandt, Rodin, or Remington. We would not think of desecrating such treasures; we exalt them instead, even as we use them.

The wilderness lands of Nevada are also treasures. We do not know exactly by what hand or immensity of force they came to exist, just as we cannot know how we ourselves came to be here. But most of us reach the realization, having attained a certain age (if not the age of wisdom then at least the age of common sense), that whatever we "have" is temporal and temporary. "You can't take it with you" is the trite but true saying as applied to money. It should be just as commonly applied to our natural heritage, our wilderness lands. This is a source that, once gone, can never be simulated or reconstructed on this planet.

It is my fear that our lawmakers will act for the moneyed few, the vocal few, the active few, accepting emotional arguments and misrepresentations by those who have axes to grind--accepting them simply because these people are the ones who speak out. If this comes to pass, then our lawmakers will have seriously misconstrued the will of the people and passed a wilderness bill that falls far short of what is needed and wanted.

That is why I am here at this hearing. Although I care, I have been silent. And there are many like me who are too shy, too uneasy before a crowd, too unwilling to expose themselves in a public fashion: precisely the ones who are most likely to use and appreciate the wilderness areas to the fullest.

I believe that I and others here today represent these people--the quiet ones--and that their numbers are legion. Please help us to preserve the precious wealth that we all have been given in the Nevada wilderness lands, to use it well, and to give it in turn to others, the future citizens of Nevada and the nation. Please reject S. 722 and support H.R. 3302.

Thank you.

Gweneth (Gwen) DenDooven
754 Vegas Valley Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Let us go right on to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 23—Judy Nance, Jason Antonoff, Bill Marr, Herman Venbetten, Steve Patchin, Joel Selick, Shelly Stowater, and Therese Werst.

And I think we can go on to panel 24 also and call them down to come join us at this table—Mitchell Stucker, Odell Hubbard, Archie LeCoque, Paul Brown, Cynthia Cunningham, Howard Booth, Dan Allison.

Senator HECHT. We will start with you over there.

STATEMENT OF THERESE WERST, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. WERST. Good afternoon, my name is Therese Werst. My husband and I moved to Nevada in 1968. We feel very strongly about issues that affect our beloved adopted State. Probably the fact that we can still do something meaningful here in Nevada is one of its greatest charms. In contrast to my birth State of New York, we can still see opportunities to influence the future and to save our natural resources now for future generations to come.

With the great population explosion that we are experiencing in the world today, let us save as much as we can of our beautiful State in its pristine condition for the future of our children. It is a sad commentary that at this time Nevada's claim to fame has only two main themes—gaming and nuclear testing—both negatives in the news media, not to mention that the next proposal is a high level waste dump site.

Please, give us our own national park as proposed. Let Nevada grow in positive ways. Scientists can study undisturbed our remote areas. Tourists can come to enjoy our national forest lands, if they are not traded away, and find recreation in our proposed national park and solitude and peace in wilderness.

It has been pointed out throughout this hearing hardly anyone has addressed the subject of conservation of habitat so that we might provide areas for birds and animals to live and reproduce without the encroachment of civilization. Part of the enjoyment of the wilderness experience is the sight and sound of birds and animals in their natural setting. Therefore, it is imperative to conserve the wilderness both for the use of man and also as a natural habitat. If we don't act now to preserve our unique areas, there is no tomorrow, as my husband says. Once they are gone, that's it.

As an aside, just to make very clear how strongly we feel regarding the issue of securing all the wilderness areas we can and establishing a national park in our State, my husband and I, who are lifelong Republicans, can't agree with Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and Vucanovich in their proposal, unless modified. We stongly support Congressman Harry Reid's bill, amended H.R. 3302. We ask your help in making a little change.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF SHELLY STOWATER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. STOWATER. I am Shelly Stowater. I have lived in Las Vegas for 23 years. I want to thank you for this opportunity to express my concern for Nevada's future. I support a strong wilderness bill,

specifically the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal, because I believe that without wilderness protection we may one day be faced with no wilderness to protect.

There are some who believe this is an extremist view, but in the light of past violations of public trust I believe strong wilderness protection cannot be left to wishful thinking. States with wilderness protection have forced companies to develop technology to enable them to retrieve needed resources without destroying the environment. States without this regard have allowed the destruction of the land and also destroyed future jobs.

If we don't protect Nevada, who will? Our State has a fragile ecosystem. We are not a barren State, as many believe. Does the long-term future of Nevada have to be sacrificed for short-term profits? Nevada history shows that those who have profited from the natural resources of this State have dusted the sand of Nevada off their shoes, took their money and gone home. Are we going to continue this tradition, or are the people of Nevada going to hold these people accountable?

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF ARCHIE LeCOQUE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. LECOQUE. Good afternoon, Mr. Hecht, members of the committee. My name is Archie LeCoque. I have been a working resident of Nevada for 21 years. Working conditions in our State have enabled me to make a good living, raise a family and put my children through school. It has also enabled my family and I to use and enjoy the beautiful and diversified outdoor areas of our great State.

Our State is marching boldly into the 21st century in the gaming industry. It is too bad that it often remains mired in the 19th century when it comes to matters of the soul. Nevada's mining, ranching, and hunting lobbies were able to kill a bill in Congress in 1924 for a Nevada national park. Those same elements are now styming a Nevada national park, even though the State has grown from 80,000 people in 1924 to 800,000 today.

If any State deserves a national park, it is certainly Nevada. Our State has acquired the horrible reputation of destroying thousands of acres in nuclear testing, as a dumping ground for America's nuclear and toxic wastes, for the MX encampments that no one else wants, and who knows what else the politicians will be planning.

America and Nevada have suffered too much from the rape, plunder, and ruin of the environment. People desperately need places to regenerate their souls, places to relax and contemplate the majesties of nature, and places to help endure the human condition. The human species needs to be inspired just by enjoying a natural scene, whether it's watching the surf at Acadia, standing in awe at the rim of the Grand Canyon, or being in a grove of giant redwoods.

Nevada is comprised of approximately 71 million acres. We are also the seventh largest State in the Union. I am in favor of Congressman Reid's amended bill, which would be around 2 percent of Nevada's land. We can certainly afford it. The people of Nevada

can either watch our State being exploited and destroyed or being experienced and enjoyed. It's up to us.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I just wanted to say something to the press and compliment you. You have done better than your counterparts in Reno yesterday. We wore them all out at 2:30. It is 2:40 now and you are still going strong. The hearing kept going until about 5 yesterday, but at 2:30 we lost all of our press, so I compliment all of you.

Let us go right on.

STATEMENT OF MITCHELL STUCKER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. STUCKER. Thank you, sir. Senator Hecht and committee members, my name is Mitchell Stucker and I want to thank you for your time today. I am here as a Nevada resident to urge your support of House bill H.R. 3302, as amended to include a national park. In addition, I encourage consideration of those additional areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

My wife and I came to Nevada 6 years ago by choice and we remain here by choice. Prior to that I had driven across Nevada and vacationed in California, Idaho, and Oregon. I figure it would be worth a drive, for the people of those States had felt proud of and preserved areas that they felt were unique and spectacular. Nevadans seem to share no such distinction.

We moved to Nevada because we wanted to live in the desert Southwest. Living here, we discovered Nevada also has unique and spectacular areas. Nevadans now have a chance to identify those and other spectacular areas. By highlighting less than 2 percent of Nevada's land area across the State we expand the message that all Nevada is a great place to work and play. The crown jewel would be a national park. Let's not pass up this opportunity to get the message out.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF JUDY NANCE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. NANCE. My name is Judy Nance. I would first like to comment I am a user of the Nevada wilderness areas, and I also support proposed House bill 3302.

The area I wish to direct my testimony toward is the Tequila Range in central Nevada, just east of the Toiyabe Range and home to Mount Jefferson. I have spent many hours hiking and observing the natural splenders of this area, enriched with creekside vegetation and spectcular scenery.

Among its wilderness values, it has a significant archeological importance. The Alta Toquima village, dating back to pre-A.D. 1000 is located near the summit of Mount Jefferson, leaving the remains of approximately 30 rock structures. Arrowheads have been found that could be dated back to 5,000 years old.

Along with such magnificent riches, this area holds significant wildlife habitation, all of which I adamantly feel deserves wilderness designation.

I also feel the wilderness issue in Nevada is not a matter of special interest groups wanting these areas for themselves, but, rather, a matter of greedy industrialists that see only a possible loss of personal financial wealth. There is more than enough land already available for that intent.

There needs to be a sense of quality formatted into that, and this step to preserve the 14 areas in H.R. 3302 is absolutely necessary and, as well, to include the Great Basin National Park.

In closing, I urge the Senate to support a wilderness bill equal to that in the House.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF STEVEN PATCHIN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. PATCHIN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Steven S. Patchin, a 20-year resident of the State of Nevada. I am representing myself at this hearing and have not been paid to be here.

I speak to you because I care about Nevada's lands and I wish to see them preserved in their natural beauty for years to come; therefore, I support the bill H.R. 3302, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you and express my views.

Of the two wilderness bills in question, I have found H.R. 3302, allowing for 939,000 acres of wilderness and a Great Basin National Park, to be the far more appropriate bill with regard to the needs of Nevada.

When I speak of the needs of Nevada, I speak not in terms of monetary profit or the desires of small interest groups. When I speak of Nevada itself as a State, the fastest growing State in the Nation, we must act quickly to preserve this magnificent beauty in the grandiose form nature has designed. Our failure to do so would be a tragedy indeed.

With the expanding population in Nevada, these lands have become more and more susceptible to overuse as vehicles are driven onto them, and the often devastating wastes of human civilization are left as disfiguring reminders.

Having lived in Nevada for most of my life, I have grown to love its beauty and natural wonders. It is not just desert and rock. It is a place of unequaled natural treasures that easily rivals those of Yellowstone National Park or any wilderness area in the Nation.

The lands in question, including many areas not provided for under S. 722 but provided for under H.R. 3302, are an irreplaceable resource that must be preserved not only for future generations to enjoy but simply because there are some things we should have no right to tamper with. These lands, with their precious wildlife, are such things.

Let us be responsible and take charge of protecting what remains of the beauty nature has given us in the land. Because this is our responsibility, I strongly support H.R. 3302 as opposed to S. 722. If H.R. 3302 or a bill possibly more prowilderness does not pass, a future time may be too late to save these lands.

I wince at the thought of a day in the not-too-distant future when there will be no lands such as these in Nevada, existing just

as nature has intended; a day when everywhere will be touched and marred with the traces of civilization; a day when there will be no retreat to the true beauty of nature. It would be an irreversible mistake to let this day come.

The opposition to this viewpoint may not want these lands to be completely sealed from many public or corporate uses. The issue before us now comes down to a choice between short-term recreation along with possible short-term profit from mining and grazing in these areas and long-term preservation of an irreplaceable natural resource.

I believe we should think of the long-term consequences of our actions today, and I therefore believe it is in Nevada's best interest for us to support H.R. 3302 or any other bill that is even more favorable to the prowilderness cause.

I would appreciate your support. Thank you for your attention.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF DANIEL ALLISON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. ALLISON. Senator Hecht, my name is Dan Allison. I am from Las Vegas. I support the position of the Friends of the Nevada Wilderness for 21 areas, and I also think that Congressman Reid's bill is a reasonable compromise.

I can understand the feelings of many people in this State which would vary on the wilderness issue. Some people want a lot. Some people do not want much. However, I am very concerned that a lot of the opposition to wilderness in this State stems from misunderstanding of wilderness designation and of wilderness management. I would like to clear up a few of those issues. My written testimony details these.

I have done a lot research, and I have worked for the Forest Service. I saw firsthand how wilderness is managed. The mining laws are not in any way changed by wilderness designation. A claim which was valid as of the date of the end of 1983 continues to be valid. The principal holding that claim can develop it. The Wilderness Act does not change that.

The Wilderness Act also does not limit access. Access appropriate to the type of claim, the resources there and its economic significance is guaranteed. Nobody is locked out of their mining claim. It does not matter whether the area is just Forest Service land or wilderness. Mining laws are still valid, and a miner's right is guaranteed.

We have heard a lot about the mineral resources of these lands. Some people have said that all of these lands have incredible mineral resources, and not a single bit of them should be locked up. When Friends of the Nevada Wilderness developed their proposal and when Congressman Reid developed the boundaries of his proposal, people looked at where are the existing mining claims, what areas people are interested in, and they drew the boundaries to exclude those areas.

I do not know of any better way of judging the importance of an area to the mining industry than to look at where the claims are. They simply are not very many in the areas proposed.

Grazing is also an issue. Grazing rights are also guaranteed by the Wilderness Act, by the Colorado Wilderness Act, and by Forest Service management. I would like to introduce to you a letter from the Forest Service that documents that there has been no elimination or even decrease in grazing in Idaho in one of their wilderness areas after designation.

Water rights is also an issue. Wilderness does not lock up water rights. It does not take them. The recent court case merely suggested that the Forest Service might want to request reserved water rights. It does not give the Forest Service the right to take that water right away from anybody else. The Forest Service stands in line with everyone, and the Forest Service has no greater right to that water than anyone else.

Also, roads will not be closed. Many people have said that in areas that are open to people right now——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. Summarize. Your time is up. I am sorry. I was watching you and not that.

Mr. ALLISON. Thank you. The areas where people drive today are commonly used, maintained roads. None will be closed.

I think that it is important to realize that wilderness does not do a lot of things that people have claimed. It merely protects that land.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Allison follows:]

Statement of Daniel Allison Before The
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters
On S. 722 and H.R. 3302
February 14, 1986

Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Daniel Allison and I am from Las Vegas. I am speaking as an individual with an academic background in natural resources, geology, and outdoor education; with extensive work experience in wilderness management with the Forest Service; and as a Nevadan who loves our wildlands.

I would like to thank you, Senator Hecht, for starting off this process of wilderness designation by sponsoring S. 722 and for holding these field hearings throughout Nevada in order to hear how Nevadans feel about wilderness. I feel that your bill completely fails to recognize the many areas of incredible beauty and wilderness value that Nevada has and which must be protected. While Congressman Reid's bill represents a reasonable compromise, even it does not protect several areas which meet the same high standards of quality as the areas in the bill.

Much of the opposition to wilderness designation is based on concerns about the way in which wilderness will affect Nevadans' enjoyment of their lands, management of the lands for multiple use, the use of grazing, mineral and energy resources, and water rights. My testimony will concentrate on mineral and energy resources but also address the other issues. It is clear to me that wilderness designation will not "lock out" other important uses, but often enhances other uses.

Mineral Resources

The Wilderness Act of 1964 left lands designated as Wilderness open to entry under the mining laws for a period of twenty years. No new claims could be filed in existing or newly designated Wilderness after the end of 1983. Any areas of Nevada that become wilderness will therefore be closed to the filing of new claims on the date a Nevada wilderness bill passes. However, existing valid mining claims can be developed under the same rights that exist on any Federal lands. The Act specifically allows prospecting to continue in Wilderness if it is done in such a way as to be compatible with wilderness preservation.

Where a valid mining claim existed before designation of wilderness, the claimholder has the right to develop the claim. Validity of a mining claim has been defined by the Mining Law of 1872, more recent laws, and court rulings. The definition requires that the claim have demonstrated mineral value that can be economically developed and that yearly assessment work be performed. This requirement is the same for lands inside or outside wilderness. If the claim is valid, the miner submits an operating plan to the managing agency, in this case the Forest Service. The plan details the activities that will take place on the claim, the method of access and ore removal, and restoration. The plan is negotiated with the Forest Service in order to allow the mining guaranteed by law while still protecting the wilderness values of the area. The Forest Service may not require any methods that are impractical or economically impossible. The use of mechanical transport, aircraft, or motorized equipment would be authorized where it

is appropriate to the site, the mineral value, and the remoteness of the claim. It is not necessary to guarantee miners access to their valid claims by vehicles when other methods may be more appropriate.

The boundaries of the areas proposed as Wilderness in H.R. 3302 were drawn to specifically exclude areas of historical mining activity and areas of current interest for mineral and energy resources. No areas of activity in historical mining districts lie within the proposals. No active mines lie within the proposals. And very few mining claims lie within the proposals. Of all the active claims in the entire state, only 0.4% are within Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposed areas. Of all the claims on Forest Service lands, only 1.7% are within those proposals. Since H.R. 3302 proposes only about two-thirds the acreage of those proposals, the statistics for that bill would be even lower.

The federal Bureau of Mines and state Division of Mineral Resources have presented information indicating that many of the areas have a high potential for strategic or "critical" minerals. Studies of areas by government agencies, especially the Bureau of Mines, often indicate high potential. This is because the agencies are in the business of supporting the development of minerals and produce reports biased to a high potential. Studies by research and educational agencies such as the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology usually indicate a lower potential. Nevada is not on the whole a highly mineralized state. Many of the ratings and information about past activity are based on prospects with indications of mineral presence or a very small production. In almost no case has there been any mineral production of

significance to the state's economy within any of the Forest Service roadless areas, let alone the smaller wilderness proposals. Nevada has been extensively prospected over a long period of time and the areas of greatest interest are clearly defined by existing mining claims and developments. The Bureau of Mines and mining industry have stated that there are many claims in some of these areas, but in most cases their statistics are based on out-of-date records, word-of-mouth speculation, or the inclusion of claims that may be in the records but do not meet the test of validity because the yearly assessment work has not been done. The extensive research done by Greg Ebner and presented to the subcommittee much more closely represents the true number of claims.

The mining industry has claimed we are out to get them by designating too much wilderness in Nevada, but the opposite is true. Congressman Reid in H.R. 3302 and the Friends of Nevada Wilderness have made efforts to eliminate likely resource conflicts from the areas of proposed Wilderness. I feel strongly that they have accomplished this. I have attached detailed information about three areas that conservationists have proposed for wilderness designation to demonstrate the low mineral potential of these areas and the efforts made to eliminate conflicts.

Many in the mining industry have made the argument that no area should be withdrawn from mineral entry because there "might" be something there. This is not a reasonable argument. All multiple uses (and mining should be a multiple use) have restrictions placed on them. Not all areas are open to timber cutting, some watersheds are closed to public use, mountain meadows are not grazed too early in the season, and

recreation is regulated to protect wildlife and facilities. In all cases, it is recognized that some uses must be restricted or given up in a specific area so that the "best" use may occur and the resource be protected for the future. Designation as Wilderness does incur restrictions on mineral development, but the land area is very small in comparison to that available in the state. In fact, Wilderness designation protects several of the multiple uses available on public lands, such as wildlife, recreation, grazing and watershed. Mining, however, threatens these uses. The gold mining operation in the Independence Range is a good example. This range was once identified as having wilderness values, but the mining operation has destroyed these values, has destroyed grazing lands, and is now threatening the water supplies of local ranchers. Wilderness designation would have protected both the grazing and water supplies. Wilderness lands are not permanently locked up, but held in reserve. If nationally significant resources were located within any wilderness, Congress could reverse the designation to allow full development. Mining, on the other hand, does make the land permanently unavailable for some other uses.The miners are essentially asking that they be exempted from the multiple use concept and have an unrestricted access to Forest Service lands that no other multiple users have. In comparison to the speculative mineral resources of some of these areas, the wilderness resources are clearly known and deserve protection as an integral part of multiple use management of the National Forests.

The mining industry repeatedly presented itself as the economic savior of the rural counties, and often the state as a whole. Certainly the

rural counties have real economic problems and it is in the interest of the whole state, including the urban areas, that these problems be solved. But I am not at all sure that mining is the best solution. Mining economies are notoriously unstable, booming and busting with the changing price of minerals and the discovery and depletion of resources. The towns of Ely and Tonopah have experienced this boom and bust cycle many times and are currently undergoing hardship due to the poor health of the national mining industry. Certainly recreation, grazing, and water supply do not offer the excitement and short-term benefits of a new gold discovery, but they do provide long-term, stable support to local economies, providing resources and a living to rural residents long after the mining interests have left. Wilderness protects these resources, mining does not.

Energy Resources

Areas of known and probable energy resources were also excluded from the proposed Wilderness boundaries. In particular, the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain proposals of Friends of Nevada Wilderness were drawn to exclude the oil producing areas of Railroad Valley and in fact all the valley lands which provide the geologic setting in which oil has been previously discovered. Most of the lands containing current or proposed leases were also excluded, such as the eastern bench of the Grant Range in which energy companies have expressed an interest. The designation of Wilderness in Nevada should not have any adverse effect on development of our important oil resources. Again, I have

attached a more detailed analysis of three of the areas and a chart which summarizes the oil potential of wilderness lands in Nevada.

Geothermal Resources

Geothermal resources are of concern only for two of the proposed areas, Ruby Mountains and Arc Dome. I have attached a chart which shows the potential for each area proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness and H.R. 3302. The Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) adjacent to the Ruby Mountains is fault controlled, meaning it is a long, linear feature paralleling the range, and does not overlap with the proposed designation. The KGRA near the Arc Dome proposal in the Toiyabe Range is very localized around hot springs and also parallels the range rather than extending into it. Wilderness designation would not in any way prevent or restrict development of these resources which are completely outside the proposed boundaries.

Grazing

The Wilderness Act specified that livestock grazing would continue in Wilderness, under reasonable regulations necessary to protect the wilderness environment. For a period following the Act, the Forest Service in a few areas tended to discourage or eliminate grazing. In 1980, however, Congress re-stated and clarified its intent that grazing be continued. Section 108 of the Colorado Wilderness Act confirmed this

Congressional intent and referred specifically to the House Committee report on the bill for guidance. The report stated that grazing should continue at approximately the same levels as existed when the area was designated, that range improvements can be maintained and new facilities added where they contribute to both range protection and wilderness preservation, and that vehicles and motorized equipment may be used in certain situations where practical alternatives do not exist. These situations might include distribution of large quantities of salt, maintenance of range improvements including the use of bulldozers to clean stock tanks, and emergencies involving the life or health of livestock.

The Committee report has been included, word for word, in the Forest Service Manual and constitutes the current Forest Service management direction on grazing. While it is not law, it would be extremely unlikely for the Forest Service to attempt to change this policy without direction from Congress. Section 6 of H.R. 3302 reaffirms this Congressional intent by specifically addressing the Wilderness Act and the Colorado Wilderness bill. It is not necessary to guarantee ranchers the right to always drive, no matter what the circumstances, as S. 722 does.

Forest Service Management

It has been claimed that Wilderness is a "single use" and not a multiple use. This is simply not true. The Wilderness Act and several acts governing Forest Service land management policies have specifically stated that wilderness is one of the multiple uses. Wilderness also contains and protects several other multiple uses such as wildlife, watershed, and grazing. It also provides the benefits of clean air, endangered species protection, scientific research, gene pool and ecosystem preservation, esthetic and religious meaning, and of course recreation in its best sense of "re-creation." I would like to specifically address three points of concern in the management of wilderness areas.

It has been suggested that the Forest Service and wildlife agencies would be precluded from doing erosion control or building wildlife improvements in Wilderness. This is not true. Wildlife agencies regularly construct wildlife improvements in existing Wilderness with the cooperation of the Forest Service. I was involved in a project which constructed fish barriers to protect an endangered trout species in the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Of course there will be some restrictions on the size of the projects, the required degree of blending with the natural environment, and the use of motorized equipment, but the Forest Service recognizes the importance of these projects where they are needed to protect or re-introduce native species. There was also concern about the Forest Service being able to perform erosion control projects, particularly in the Table Mountain

proposal. Nothing in the Wilderness Act prohibits erosion control if the problem is due to past human use of the area, as at Table Mountain. I have spent a large part of my career with the Forest Service and National Park Service doing exactly these kind of erosion control projects, many of them in designated Wilderness. The work was usually done by manual labor rather than with the use of motorized equipment, but the result was effective and the personnel always had a great deal of pride in doing these projects by hand. In summary, the need to perform erosion control and build necessary wildlife improvements does not in any way recommend against wilderness designation.

It has been suggested that the Forest Service would prohibit aircraft overflights of wilderness areas and could prevent landing access to private inholdings within the Wilderness. Neither is true. The Forest Service has no statutory authority to regulate the airspace over Wilderness, except as necessary to protect the safety of people on the ground. The Forest Service has in the past worked with the FAA and military to change flight patterns and procedures so as to reduce impacts on the wilderness experience. This was done in the Superstition Wilderness in Arizona, but the changes were entirely voluntary and were carried out after long negotiations. To my knowledge, there have never been any restrictions placed on commercial or private air traffic over wilderness areas. It is clear that aircraft overflights can have a negative impact on the wilderness experience and Congress may decide to regulate this traffic, but it is unrealistic to expect that it would be done over all areas or that Nevada would be subject to such restrictions before more heavily used areas such as the Sierras, Cascades, and

Rockies. The Forest Service also has no authority to regulate aircraft landings on private lands within the Forest Service lands, whether Wilderness or not.

There have been concerns about the freedom of people to enjoy the wilderness and the restrictions that might be placed on use. The Forest Service has developed the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept in an attempt to assess and limit the negative impacts that too much use or improper use can have on the wilderness environment. The concept does not specify what types of management will be used to lessen or reverse damage. The Forest Service has largely adopted wilderness education, rather than regulation, to deal with such impacts. Most of the damage to the wilderness environment is due to improper use rather than too much use, and an educated public is very willing to change their behavior to help protect and heal the wilderness. In the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon, restrictions on wilderness users were almost completely eliminated due to the success of a outstanding wilderness education program. In other areas, the need for regulations has been delayed indefinitely because of education programs. Of course, in some areas where the level of use is very high or there are no funds available for an education program, regulations on user numbers or behavior will be needed. But the Forest Service is sensitive to the loss of freedom that these regulations entail and will not be quick to institute them. In Nevada, where most of the proposed areas are not heavily used, such restrictions will hopefully be a long time in coming. Forest Service Wilderness is actually less regulated than many other lands on the Forests. A comparison with campgrounds is illuminating.

There are fees for use of campsites, stay limits, regulations on noise and camping locations, and a long list of others. Of course the restrictions are necessary to protect the campground resource and the experience of the people who use it. Restrictions on wilderness use, where they are instituted, serve the same purpose.

Mineral, Energy, Geothermal, and Wilderness Resources of
Grant Range, Quinn Canyon Range, and Currant Mountain

Mineral Resources of the Grant Range

The USGS rates this area as having a high mineral potential for gold, lead, silver, and fluospar. However, the history of the area is at odds with this assessment. The historical Troy mining district produced small quantities of precious metals in the early 1900's, but there has been no production since 1949. Some tungsten was produced in the 1950's, but it was only a very small part of Nevada's production of that metal. There has been no documented production of any resource since that time.

The formerly active part of the district lies outside both the Forest Service proposal of their Land and Resource Management Plan and the proposal of H.R. 3304. This fact is reflected as well in the mining claims of the area. The Forest Service proposal excludes nearly 100% of the claims by shrinking the roadless area from that proposed in the RARE II process. This degree of shrinkage was unnecessary. H.R. 3304 excludes the vast majority of the claims while protecting more of the wilderness resource. The areas in which miners have expressed an interest by filing and holding claims lie almost entirely outside of both proposals. If any of the few claims included in the proposal were to prove valid, the claimholder's rights are protected under the Wilderness Act. Miners are not being "locked out" of their areas of

substantial interest or out of any valid claims. Exploration for mineral resources inside the designated area could continue in the traditional methods of prospecting which are allowed by the Wilderness Act and certainly through new methods of exploration which use remote sensing techniques and leave the wilderness undisturbed.

Mineral Resources of the Quinn Canyon Range

The USGS rates the Quinn Canyon area as having a high potential for fluospar, gold, silver, mercury, and molybdenum, while the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology identifies only the south end fluospar deposits as having any significant economic potential. As in the Grant Range, the past and current activities here do not indicate a high potential. The Willow Creek mining district has historically produced very small amounts of gold and silver to the northwest, fluospar and base metals in the east, and fluospar to the south. These areas of past activity are nearly all outside the wilderness boundaries proposed in H.R. 3304. There has been almost no activity in any of these areas since the 1950's. The proposal, in fact, excludes nearly all of the mining claims in the roadless area, which are primarily along the northwest side. The area of possible economic significance for fluospar development in the south part of the range has no current mining claims at all. Much of the range had claims several years ago, but the vast majority of these claims were dropped for lack of interest and assessment work was never done. Again, the locale of interest expressed by miners simply does not overlap significantly with the wilderness proposal.

Mineral Resources of Currant Mountain

The USGS has rated the Currant Mountain area as having a high mineral potential. However, most of the historical Currant mining district lies outside of the proposal. The most intensively explored area lies just southeast of the proposed wilderness, but this area called Golden Rod never produced any significant value in minerals. There are known tungsten and fluospar deposits in Broom Canyon, but again there was never any significant production from this area. The most telling fact about the area is that there is not a single current mining claim in the entire proposal. The mining industry apparently does not share the USGS assessment of high potential.

Energy Resources of Grant Range

The USGS has rated the Grant Range roadless area as having a moderate potential for oil because of the generalized maturity of hydrocarbon resources in the area, if any are present, and the proximity to the Railroad Valley oil fields. One of the postulated source rocks, the Paleozoic Chainman Shale is present in the proposal, while the Tertiary Sheep Pass is present primarily north of the proposal. However, neither of these source rocks have been shown to contain hydrocarbons within the range itself.

While proximity to Railroad Valley might be a good indicator, all of the oil discoveries and production to date have been in the sediments of the downfaulted valley block and have been trapped up against the fault which clearly separates the valley from the range. No oil has been discovered here or in nearby ranges in the uplifted mountain blocks. While the range does contain numerous low angle thrust faults, there is no evidence of the deep seated thrusting which has proven to trap petroleum in the Wyoming portion of the overthrust belt. In fact the extensive faulting of the range increases the likelihood that any hydrocarbons originally present have escaped.

Oil companies have applied for leases over much of the northern part of the area. The areas of primary interest, the western edge, because of its proximity to Railroad Valley, and the eastern bench, because of its possible similarity to the Railroad Valley structure, have been excluded from both the Forest Service proposal and H.R. 3304. Even if the

companies wished to explore their leases into the edges of the proposal, the technology is available to slant drill from locations outside the boundary. Since the geological setting being looked for is a deep seated thrust plate, the drilling would not require extreme slant drilling. New techniques of oil exploration involving remote sensing can be used without any ground disturbance in the wilderness.

Even if oil were discovered within the range, which appears unlikely, it is questionable whether the resource could be economically developed. Drilling costs would be high because of the thick sediments and rugged terrain, and transportation costs for any oil produced would also be high due to the rugged terrain and distance from markets.

It is clear that petroleum resources exist in Railroad Valley and that it is in the interests of all the people of Nevada to develop those resources. However, the Grant Range wilderness proposal does not appear to contain any of these resources, nor does it in any way prevent development of energy resources adjacent to the proposal.

Energy Resources of Quinn Canyon Range

The USGS rated the Quinn Canyon roadless area as having a low potential for petroleum production. While some possible source rocks are present in the area, the area has a lower likelihood that the hydrocarbons would be of the proper maturity and the area is further from the known oil fields in Railroad Valley. The range exhibits a lot of low angle thrust

faulting, but there is no evidence of deep seated thrusting of the overthrust belt type.

There are small areas along the northwest edge of the proposal which have pending leases, indicating some interest by oil companies. As with the Grant Range, all existing knowledge points to the possibility of petroleum discoveries in Railroad Valley to the west and possibly to the east, but petroleum discoveries within the range and this wilderness proposal are unlikely.

Energy Resources of Currant Mountain

The Currant Mountain proposal was not specifically covered in the USGS report on the petroleum potential of wilderness lands in Nevada, but the Forest Service mentions a USGS rating of low for the area. The range is separated from Railroad Valley by two major faults, the Railroad Valley to the west beneath the valley alluvium, and the Blackrock to the east at the head of the western alluvial fan. While the area between these two faults might represent some potential, the main part of the range represents a low potential because of the geological setting of the range. While 50% of the Forest Service roadless area is covered by leases, no drilling has taken place nor has any evidence of petroleum resources within the range been discovered.

Wilderness Resources of Grant Range

In contrast to the marginal and very speculative mineral and energy resources contained within or close to this proposal, the wilderness values of the Grant Range are outstanding. The range contains a healthy population of bighorn sheep and many other undisturbed wildlife species. The rugged western slope and more gentle eastern slope are topped by a beautiful and spectacular ridgeline of white limestone.

The Forest Service rated this area as having a high value for solitude and primitive recreation. It was easy for me to see why as I approached the range for the first time across miles of dirt roads, passing only an occasional ranch. I have never felt anywhere else in Nevada the sense of isolation and wildness that I felt in this range. Yet despite this remote feeling, the area is less than three hours from Las Vegas, providing an important wilderness resource that will become more critical as Las Vegas grows and becomes more urban.

The current productive uses of the area include the grazing of livestock, the production of water used by wildlife and the ranches, dispersed recreation such as hunting and backpacking, and habitat for a diverse wildlife and plant community. All of these uses would be continued or enhanced by designation as wilderness. I would choose these known uses of renewable resources over the speculative possibility of exploiting non-renewable resources.

Wilderness Resources of Quinn Canyon Range

The Quinn Canyon area was rated by the Forest Service as having a high value of solitude and primitive recreation. Though slightly less spectacular than the Grant Range to the north, the steep cliffs surrounding the heads of the northwest canyons present a rugged beauty. The bristlecones of Hooper Canyon and the surprising lushness of Little Cherry Creek and other drainages present a gentler aspect. The area as a whole feels even wilder than the Grant Range.

The Forest Service recommended this area for wilderness designation in the RARE II process and the area still contains the outstanding wilderness qualities that were recognized by that study. The proposed boundaries of H.R. 3304 would protect these same values while excluding a few areas of incursion and most of the area of mining claims and mineral potential.

Wilderness Resources of Currant Mountain

The Forest Service rated this roadless area as having only a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation, but the incredibly spectacular nature of the range belies this assessment. Many of the field trip participants were extremely impressed with the narrow white limestone ridge falling away in high steep cliffs. The inaccessible nature of the crest and the lack of water in the area produce a wilderness value much greater than moderate. Bighorn sheep are

dependent upon this same ruggedness and inaccesibility while at the same time adding to the wilderness feeling of the range. An unusual population of bristlecone pine also graces the range. These wilderness values outweigh the minimal mineral values of the area and the speculative possibility of oil potential. We would not be foregoing any known resources of significance by designating this area.

Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands

Proposed Area	Rating	Close to High Poten	Close to Medium Poten	Close to Current Produc
Alta Toquima	none	no	no	no
Arc Dome	zero	no	no	no
Boundary Peak	zero	no	no	no
Currant Mtn.	none	yes	yes	no
East Humboldt	none	no	no	no
Elk Mtn.	none	no	no	no
Excelsior	zero	no	no	no
Grant Range	medium	yes	yes	yes
Jarbidge	low	no	no	no
Mt. Charleston	none	no	no	no
Mt. Moriah	medium	no	no	no
Mt. Rose	none	no	no	no
Pearl Peak	none	no	no	no
Quinn Canyon	low	yes	yes	no
Ruby Mtns.	zero	yes	no	no
Santa Rosa	none	no	no	no
South Schell	none	no	no	no
South Snake	medium	no	no	no
Sweetwater	zero	no	no	no
Table Mtn.	none	no	no	no
Toiyabe Crest	none	no	no	no

Close is defined as 12 miles or less, which is a liberal definition considering the limited geological setting of all current finds.

Source: Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in Nevada. Charles A. Sandberg. US Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 1984.

Geothermal Resources of Nevada

Proposed Area	Rating	Close to High Poten	Close to Hot Spring	Close to KGRA
Alta Toquima	poss low	no	no	no
Arc Dome	poss low	yes	yes	yes
Boundary Peak	poss low	no	no	no
Currant Mtn.	poss low	yes	yes	no
East Humboldt	poss low	no	no	no
Elk Mtn.	poss low	no	no	no
Excelsior	poss low	yes	no	no
Grant Range	poss low	no	yes	no
Jarbidge	poss low	no	no	no
Mt. Charleston	poss low	no	no	no
Mt. Moriah	none	no	no	no
Mt. Rose	poss low	yes	yes	yes
Pearl Peak	poss low	yes	yes	no
Quinn Canyon	poss low	no	no	no
Ruby Mtns.	poss low	yes	yes	yes
Santa Rosa	none	no	no	no
South Schell	none	no	no	no
South Snake	none	no	no	no
Sweetwater	poss low	no	no	no
Table Mtn.	poss low	yes	no	no
Toiyabe Crest	poss low	yes	yes	no

Poss low means that the area is in a region of possible low temperature resources where only a small area is likely to actually have such resources. KGRA is a Known Geothermal Resource Area.

Source: Geothermal Resources of Nevada. Environmental Research Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV. 1983.

VI. REFERENCES

Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. USDA Forest Service, Elko, Nevada. 1985.

Geology of Northern Nye County, Nevada. Frank J. Kleinhampl and Joseph I. Ziony. Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Reno, Nevada. 1985.

Mineral Resources of Northern Nye County, Nevada. Frank J. Kleinhampl and Joseph I. Ziony. Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Reno, Nevada. 1984.

Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands in Nevada. Charles A. Sandberg. US Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 1984. (includes a map, I-1542, showing the rating of each area)

Correspondence on mining claims and pending oil and gas leases in the Grant Range and Quinn Canyon areas, from Rene P. DeMuele, Ely District Ranger. 1985.

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Intermountain Region | 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401

Reply to:

Date: Dec. 4, 1985

Mr. Von Sorenson
Clover Valley
Wells, NV 89835

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

During the recent Nevada Cattleman's and Wool Grower's Association joint convention, concern was expressed over the large number of sheep permittees that were forced out of business because of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness designation in Idaho. We think it is proper to provide the following information.

During the past several years the number of sheep that graze on National Forest allotments in Idaho has continued to decline. At present, there are about 30 allotments that are either vacant or not grazed because of nonuse for the personal convenience of the permittee. Other than a conversion of one band of sheep to cattle, our records show no change in sheep grazing in the area designated as the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Factors other than wilderness designation--overall ranch economics and labor--are recognized as being primarily responsible for the decline in sheep use on National Forest System lands in Idaho.

Section 4 of the Wilderness Act of 1964 provides that the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of the Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture. Futher, the Congressional Conference Report to S. 2009 (H.R. No. 96-1126) provides additional guidelines pertaining to livestock grazing in wilderness. Among other things, the Conference Report guidelines specify that livestock grazing is not to be closed out as a result of an area being designated as wilderness. Those guidelines were adopted as Forest Service policy to which we adhere. A copy of the policy as stated in the Forest Service Manual is enclosed for information. Provisions relating to continued livestock grazing are contained in legislation subsequent to 1964 which established additional wilderness areas.

In summary, we have no information to support statements that cattle or sheep operators were forced out of business as a result of wilderness designation. We are unable to discern changes in permitted livestock grazing that are attributable to wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

RANDALL R. HALL
Director
Range and Watershed Management

Enclosure

cc: w/o enc.
DRF-R
Humboldt NF
Toiyabe NF

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HOWARD G. BOOTH, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BOOTH. Senator Hecht, I am Howard Booth, a 28-year resident of Las Vegas. I really appreciate the opportunity to let you know how important I think it is to designate at least as much wilderness as that proposed in H.R. 3302. Certain comments and misconceptions on wilderness need to be addressed, and I will try to do this in my oral testimony.

Some people say we need roads into all areas of our mountains and forests in order to provide for access, but access by mechanical equipment today generally off of these roads inevitably means damage to the land and resources.

This is shown by ORD depredations increasingly observed. One problem is that technological development is increasing this capability for ingress in new ways and with new destructiveness. This is what wilderness zoning will protect us from.

Much is made of the control of Nevada's destiny by Nevadans, but I think Nevadans—that is, losing control of its destiny in its rush for development, not in the designation of liberal amounts of wilderness. The question is, What kind of destiny do we want for Nevada?

Designation of wilderness implies control of our destiny to the extent it is possible to do so by sensible zoning. This is a technique used throughout America to control growth to plan a rational destiny.

The mining industry seems to use technological improvements in mining techniques to its particular advantage to support a wilderness designation. On the one hand it saves new techniques for discovering minerals where old methods could find none. Then the industry cries that technology will never be able to use 70 percent of the allowable lands because it cannot look under the alluvium and lava.

I wonder how many of the 19th century miners would have said similar things in looking at lands now prospected and mined using these new technologies we have? I think technology will develop the ability to exploit resources under the alluvium and lava and indeed not destroy the jewels of our alpine high country.

But technology can be especially destructive as its new techniques are developed. Prospecting today often involves heavy equipment, not the furrows of old. Bulldozers gouge destructive trails across steep slopes and through forests and streams as necessary to reach suspected mineralization.

Modern mining techniques can also be incredibly destructive. Strip mining, which is increasingly used, lays waste to vast surface areas. Who knows just what we may be capable of in the future?

An article in Science magazine some years ago gave an analysis of the possibility of economically extracting sufficient uranium from the granite of the Sierra and utilizing the ultimate in strip mining; that is, the grinding of the mountains. Not until the last paragraph was the catch-22 comment introduced, namely that this could occur only provided society was willing to allow it.

Wilderness zoning is one method for society to protect outstanding environments, such as those proposed in H.R. 3022, from the onslaught of technology. We must do it now while it is possible, and I hope that you will help do it.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Booth follows:]

STATEMENT OF HOWARD G. BOOTH, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, BEFORE THE SENATE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE AT A HEARING ON PROPOSALS FOR NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, ON FEBRUARY 14, 1986.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Howard Booth, a 28-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. I am delighted with the opportunity afforded me in this field hearing to let you know directly how important I feel it is that strong national forest wilderness legislation for Nevada be passed this year. I think the proposals contained in H.R. 3302 are a minimum to satisfy the needs of Nevadans in this respect.

When I moved to Nevada in 1957, I firmly intended to leave the state as soon as I could find work elsewhere, but I became intrigued by the marvelous wild lands that stretched across our state. I have remained here largely because of the pleasure it has given me in exploring these areas and, by doing so, relieving the tensions of city life and a stressful city job. I have been fortunate in having the opportunity to hike or backpack in three fourths of the areas proposed for wilderness in H.R. 3302 and can attest to the quality and uniqueness of each one of them. I am terribly concerned that the growth of Nevada's population, industry, and military installations is seriously eroding the best opportunities for the high quality of life afforded by these wild lands.

My comments are in three categories: first, general comments on the values of wilderness to society; second, comments on the

implications and values of strong wilderness legislation for Nevada; and finally, comments on the values of a 47,000 acre Mt. Charleston wilderness, as proposed in H.R. 3302, to southern Nevada.

General comments on the institution and values of wilderness

The answer to the question of why we need wilderness at all would fill a book (and has). This high-tech world of international big business, of faster transportation and communications, is in effect shrinking the world and its areas of wilderness. There seems less and less room for unspoiled nature and we must now make these conscious efforts to protect what we can of the remainder. It is important that we do so because wilderness is the stuff of our evolution as a species, the mold for our national character, the repository for our precious gene pool, and the source of such valuable products as many pharmaceuticals. It is watersheds and wildlife habitat, recreation, and the inspiration for the arts. Wilderness is a crucial bench mark against which we gauge our cleverness in tinkering with the rest of the earth's environment.

Wilderness designation should not be compared with federal land withdrawals such as test sites, waste repositories, or military ranges. By contrast with these, designated wilderness comes from an act of congress and is an expression of public will. Wilderness incorporates several multiple uses of our forest lands which are compatible with it such as watershed protection, grazing where it has been already in progress, wildlife and habitat protection, scientific study, and of course wilderness recreation,

including hunting and fishing.

Some people criticize the designation of wilderness because they feel it excludes the infirm and the aged. It does to some extent but they overstate their case. The infirm and the aged can often enjoy wilderness in less rigorous ways, even if only through a short walk or horseback ride into such an area from their car or campground. There are numerous programs around the country specifically designed to help the infirm and aged enjoy wilderness experiences. These may produce more intense excitement and pleasure than that enjoyed by the average wilderness adventurer because of the contrast with their otherwise restricted lives. I think it should be kept in mind that, except for mineral prospecting trails normally closed to the public, few of the proposed wilderness areas would ever have public roads for the benefit of the infirm even if not designated for wilderness. The areas are generally so rugged that road construction and maintenance would be prohibitive in cost.

If the aged and infirm can't quite climb one of those wilderness peaks, their imaginations can soar to the top, for wilderness, so long as it exists, is as much a hope or an idea as it is a physical place. At the same time, wilderness remains the unspoiled scenic backdrop for the views from peripheral roads and campgrounds, from lodges and from nearby towns and cities. It is the attraction of wilderness that will gradually lead to the construction of new facilities on the edge of wilderness that will provide access for people, including the aged and infirm. Many of the aged and infirm have not always been so and if they have taken advantage of wilderness opportunities in earlier years they will

perhaps be sustained by incredible memories of those events. Even more important to them will be the pleasure of knowing that their children and grandchildren can have those same profound experiences in unspoiled wilderness.

I also think that children and the youth of our country - indeed, even adults - often need the experience of wilderness as a counterpoint to the increasingly stressfull life of the cities. In contact with wilderness, people of all ages have a chance to recharge their batteries, to sort things out in their lives, and to learn something of themselves and gain confidence as they confront some very basic problems thrown up by the forces of nature rather than man. Though it would be difficult to prove statistically, I strongly suspect that a younger generation in contact with wilderness will have fewer juvenile delinquents than one confined to an urban environment.

Some comments on the implications of a strong wilderness bill for Nevada

I think it is important, first of all, to realize the extremely samll acreages proposed for wilderness by even the most ambitious bill introduced in Congress. Seiberling's bill for 1.5 million acres would have protected only a bit more than two percent of the state. The Reid bill (H.R. 3302) would protect a mere 1.3 percent of the state in addition to creating a splendid Great Basin National Park.

The principle opponents of wilderness are the mineral industry and those who feel their economic interests ride with mining.

They maintain that all but minimal protection in wilderness would severely impact the industry. Yet experience has shown that past mining activity in an area is one of the best indicators of future mineral potential. The Forest Service uses existing and past mining activity as such an indicator to help make planning decisions that would potentially impact the mineral industry. Mr. Greg Ebner of Reno has done an analysis of mining claims and their acreages in areas proposed for wilderness by Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FNW). It shows that on the average there are only about 1.7 percent of these areas in claims, and four of the 21 proposed areas have no claims at all. Areas proposed by H.R. 3302 would, of course, show similar small percentages in claims. The implication is that little mineral discovery is likely in these areas and that the carefull choice of boundaries by FNW has eliminated all large blocks of claims.

Even though little mineral potential is indicated for any of the areas proposed by the various bills introduced in the House, mineral prospecting can be expected to continue in one degree or another in any area not protected in wilderness. Modern prospecting is far removed from the methods of prospector-with-burro of the old days. Today's methods use heavy machinery such as the buldozer and roads are cut into steep mountainsides or through streams and forests as necessary to reach suspected mineralized areas. For this reason, the pristine character and beauty of today's natural areas will likely be permanently lost where not protected in wilderness.

A decided economic advantage to Nevada should result from

wilderness protection of the beautiful roadless areas proposed in H.R. 3302 as tourists discover the uncrowded wilderness opportunities of our state. Dude ranches, lodges, and horseback packing services will develope to accomodate this growing market and the tourist economy of the rural towns and the state should become more diversified with time.

Comments on a 47,000 acre Mt. Charleston wilderness in southern Nevada

The remainder of my comments concern the Mt. Charleston wilderness as proposed in H.R. 3302. This is an area with which I am most familiar since it is closest to my home. I think the entire area is especially qualified for wilderness.

Clark County is largely an urban area. Its citizens live with city stresses and need the opportunities for rejuvenation that wilderness can provide (see "General comments---" section above for elaboration of this). Several of the areas proposed in the Reid bill are within striking distance of Las Vegas but Mt. Charleston is the only one proposed whose alpine wilderness would be close enough to the city for both overnight and one day enjoyment. The Mt. Charleston area takes on considerable importance to Clark County as a result. Though not large enough to answer all the county's needs for wilderness by itself, Mt. Charleston is a splendid area which has retained its wilderness character within the entire 47,000 acres proposed in the Reid bill. As with all lands near the metropolitan area, it is under potential pressure for development which would alter its character. Wilderness designation would assure the survival of this increasingly valuable

resource even as the southern Nevada population surges past the projected one million people.

The wilderness attributes of this area are well known. Many people come from nearby states to hike and backpack within this range and to climb its peaks. It is no surprise that the Desert Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter has included 11,918 foot Mt. Charleston in its small list of what it terms its "emblem peaks"; ie, the ones most interesting from the standpoint of challenging hiking and dramatic scenery. Yet this range's interest extends far beyond this single feature. The great limestone cliffs that rim its canyons, the several particularly craggy rock-rimmed peaks that rise above 10,000 feet, the contrast of alpine terrain with the dry, hot desert 8000 feet below, the number of lovely springs that hide along the flanks of ridges or within remote canyons, the plunging seasonal waterfalls fed by snowbanks lingering into July, forests that include several life zones and culminate in the largest pure stands of gnarled bristlecone pines to be found anywhere, elk and deer, a chipmunk found nowhere else, and 27 endemic plant species - these are some of the attributes that make this small area prime wilderness.

H.R. 3302 has added certain important and well qualifying areas to the 32,000 core acres contained in S. 722. One of these includes the summit and slopes of 11,500 foot high Mummy Mountain. This peak is one of the most commanding and dramatic features of the Spring Mountain Range and its slopes contain some of the most imposing cliffs of the range as well as such outstanding features

as the deeply recessed "narrows" of Fletcher Canyon. The integrity of a Mt. Charleston wilderness would be seriously compromised if the Mummy Mountain area were to lose its wilderness attributes through lack of legislative protection. It is not only a visibly outstanding feature but is the object of considerable wilderness recreation in itself. The Forest Service's draft forest management plan seems to have left this area off of its recommendations because of the rather narrow connection between wilderness quality lands on this peak with the remainder of its recommended wilderness. However, the mountain and its slopes have all the attributes of wilderness and the unit is certainly large enough to provide the manageable boundaries proposed in H.R. 3302.

A second critical area that should be added to strengthen the present S. 722 proposal for Mt. Charleston is the 10,000 foot Harris Peak and its environment, which anchors the southeast end of the long central ridge of the range. This was apparantly left off of Forest Service recommendations simply because it was once recommended for a communications site. There are no present plans for such an installation, however, and in any case such a visible intrusion on its summit would seriously impair the integrity of the high country wilderness while opening the door to further intrusive construction projects on the peak.

Another important addition to the present S. 722 proposal for Mt. Charleston should be the Wallace Canyon drainage. Not only does this area exhibit quality wilderness attributes but its inclusion would assure an unbroken expanse of wilderness along

the splendid steep and heavily forested west slope of the range.

Boundaries should also assure protection for Mud Springs near the northeast boundary of the national forest, an important riparian habitat critical to wildlife which is under pressure from illegal entry. H.R. 3302 would protect this area.

Expanding boundaries of the S. 722 Mt. Charleston proposal as suggested above would generate few conflicts between wilderness and other activities on the national forest. There would be little negative impact on future campground, road, or ski area developments. As analysed in forest management plans for the Charleston Ranger District, most of the suitable sites for these facilities have already been developed within the national forest and future developments of these kinds must come about on adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands.

The wilderness proposed for Mt. Charleston in H.R. 3302 contains but one mining claim whose mineral values are far from certain. The mineral industry has not opposed wilderness designation for a 32,000 acre portion of the area contained in H.R. 3302 nor does there appear to be significant mineralization in the larger 47,000 acre proposal.

There is no commercial timber harvesting to conflict with wilderness. Livestock grazing does not occur here at all.

The wilderness proposed in H.R. 3302 would enhance the existing Clark County master plan for privately owned lands in the Kyle and Lee Canyon areas of the mountain since the plan advocates protection for the adjacent forest.

No designated roads would be closed by H.R. 3302. Wilderness

designation's prohibition against new roads fits most of the Forest Service's management proposals for the mountain. These include protection of the 27 endemic plant species and the endemic Palmer's chipmunk. Back country recreation opportunities would be enhanced under wilderness. Little change in hunting opportunities would be noticed under wilderness designation except that habitat of all species, including that of the elk and deer so prized by hunters, would be optimumly protected. Little adverse impact upon snowmobile activities would result from wilderness under H.R. 3302 proposals because lands within the wilderness boundaries are generally characterized by steep slopes and cliffs unsuited to the activity. Presently used snowmobiling areas lie outside of the proposed boundaries of H.R. 3302.

Conclusions

My life has been enriched by opportunities to enjoy Nevada's wild lands, as I know is true of a great many of my fellow citizens. I hope that our children and grandchildren will have wilderness opportunities to this same degree, an assurance only possible if a sazeable amount of this dwindling resource is designated for protection. I think the proposals of H.R. 3302 are a minimum for achieving this.

I feel it is critically important to have generous wilderness opportunities close to large urban areas. This is why the Mt. Charleston proposal of H.R. 3302 is so important. It is the only alpine area easily within reach of urban southern Nevada. The boundaries proposed in H.R. 3302 interfere little with uses of the forest or potential Forest Service management programs.

I sincerely hope a Senate bill will reflect these needs.

Senator HECHT. Your entire statement will be inserted into the record. Let us go on to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel No. 25, Bob Wright, Richard Hartmand, Alberta Morgan, Greg Kennedy, Florence McClure, Stanley Hillyard, Terri Robertson.

Panel 26 can come on down also to the witness table: Drusilla Raney, Lorri Jackson, Susan Deluca, Vernon Bostick, Ann Zorn, Don Gurka, and Lynn Surick.

Panel 27: Tim Kruse, Cynthia Huth, Tom Duncan, Helene Raacke, Lorelle Nelson, Dorothy Eisenberg, Nora Neneses, and Kenneth Reid.

Senator HECHT. Let us start with the young lady over there.

STATEMENT OF TERRI ROBERTSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. ROBERTSON. My name is Terri Robertson, and I live in North Las Vegas. Although I love Pat Little and admire her, she did not represent me today. I am here not as a representative of a group or organization. I am not a civic leader or an elected official. I am here as a native Nevadan with a great interest in preservation.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me, I do not think they can hear you. Can you turn the mike on?

Now try. Start again.

Ms. ROBERTSON. My name is Terri Robertson, and although I love and admire Pat Little very much, she did not represent me here today. I am not here as a representative of a group or organization. Nor am I here as an elected official. I am here as a native Nevadan with a great interest in preservation.

My father was born in 1902 near Muskegan Valley and 80 years later, in 1982, my grandson became a fourth generation Nevadan. Dad was a miner and a wanderer; a miner during all but the last 10 years of his working years, and a wanderer until just before he died. He instilled in me a great love for the State of Nevada, a respect for the beauty therein, and long before he passed away we both realized the importance of setting aside lands for future generations.

I support Harry Reid's wilderness proposal. How I wish it were enacted now. My grandson's children will never know areas in Clark County such as McCullits as my father and myself and my children know them. What a shame that we had so much to offer and save.

The wilderness is not a lockout. It is a lockin of some of the best this Earth has to offer, a present to the great grandchildren that you will never see. They will always have the key to experience what was left for them.

I would like to talk just for a second this morning. I cannot remember who it was, but a gentleman was talking about oil exploration. Senator Hecht, you seemed very excited. I thought that that was an interesting thing for us to experience here in the State, and I am sure that a gentleman not too many years ago had that same excitement when he wanted to surface drill for oil in Red Rock.

It is time that we learned that there are some places where it is more important to save what is on top of the surface than we will ever get out of what is below.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. Please continue.

STATEMENT OF LORELLE NELSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. NELSON. My name is Lorelle Nelson. I live just outside of Las Vegas on the corner of the old Bell Crease Ranch. I first came to Nevada 20 years ago, and I kept getting drawn back after I finished my studies.

I would like to support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal, and I hope that at least we can support the House bill 3302, as amended.

I would like to just say a word about the economic benefits of wilderness as were so ably described by Ms. Ward and Roy Evans earlier today. In my own personal experience, when my parents first came to visit me, they did not want to stay very long because there was nothing here for them to do. These days they come out and stay for a month. They stay in a hotel, spend a lot of money, travel around, have a wonderful time.

My 78-year-old father recently hiked in the Jarbidge for the first time. He said this is great. What else is there in Nevada? He will be back later on this spring, and I hope that we will be able to tell him that we have many wilderness areas for him to hike in.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF FLORENCE McCLURE, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. MCCLURE. I am Florence McClure, a 20-year resident of Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. This is home for me now. I favor H.R. 3302 as amended.

I was born and raised in southern Illinois nearly 65 years ago. However, since my husband of over 40 years was career military, I have lived in nearly all areas of the United States and in Japan. We have taken advantage of State and national parks. We have raised our children to respect the resources of our country. This respect was inculcated more deeply when they lived in Japan, where nature, trees and the contours of the land is a religious experience. We know the blessings of the land are finite, and we have to preserve them for generations to come after we have left the scene.

I think it is terrible that Nevada does not have a national park and has insufficient wilderness area. We can remedy this situation that other Eastern States could not. You cannot take a developed area and put it into wilderness. However, in the future if those who follow us determine that wilderness encompasses too much acreage it can be released by passing appropriate laws.

Further, if the security of the United States is threatened by the lack of certain elements found in Nevada soils, the President of the United States, by signing an Executive order, can authorize exploration, mining, et cetera. The President does, under certain circumstances, have great powers.

During the last year and a half of retirement, I have spent a great deal of time at geneology libraries in Las Vegas, California and Utah as well as boning up on my early history of this great country from the landing on the east coast in the 1600's right down to the present day. There are three main reasons for immigration to this country: search for land and better economic status; escape

religious persecution; and escape military duty in a continent that was inflamed with civil and religious wars.

Both my husband and I have land developer ancestors in a number of States going back to 1700. We did not like what happened in the midwest in those different areas. The trees were girdled. They raped the land on the way west. But we have a chance now in this State in the West to preserve.

I would like to review some of the arguments that have been made against Eastern Congressmen because they are coming in and butting into Nevada business. One of the main reasons those Congressmen are so sincere and want to do something is because their own States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and so forth have no chance whatsoever.

Let us not leave a scorched Earth policy in the West. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. McClure follows:]

U. S. SENATE HEARING ON WILDERNESS BILLS

February 14, 1986
Las Vegas, Nevada

I am Florence McClure, a 20-year resident of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. This is home to me now!

I was born and raised in Southern Illinois nearly 65 years ago. However, since my husband of over 40 years was career military, I/have lived in nearly all areas of the United States and in Japan. We have taken advantage of state and national parks -- we raised our children to respect the resources of our country. This respect was inculcated more deeply when they lived in Japan where nature, trees and the contours of the land is a religious experience. We know the blessings of the land are finite and we have to preserve them for generations to come after we have left the scene.

I think it is terrible that Nevada does not have a national park and/has insufficient wilderness area. We can remedy this situation other eastern states cannot. You cannot take a developed area and put it into wilderness; however, in the future, if those who follow us determine the wilderness encompasses too much acreage, it can be released by passing appropriate laws. Further, if the security of the United States is threatened by the lack of certain elements found in Nevada soils, the President of the United States, by signing an Executive Order, can authorize exploration, mining, etc. The president does, under certain circumstances, have great powers.

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and Utah, as well as boning up on the early history of this great country from the landing on the east coasts in the 1600's down to present day. There are three main reasons for immigration to this country, (1) search for land and better economic status; (2) escape religious persecution and (3) escape military duty in a continent that was inflamed with civil and religious wars.

Both my husband and I have land-developer ancestors in a number of states but the main areas are Hagerstown, Maryland and Chattanooga, Tennessee. When the colonists depleted the land soils they moved further west, girdling more trees. I am not blaming them -- they did not comprehend the environment, they did not have the fertilizers we have today. The point is, we have to preserve some of our lands in their pristine environment -- we need to commune with nature -- get away from the cities and back to the land from time to time to become refreshed. The population of the world and Nevada is increasing at a great rate -- those who can at this time insure our state of proper wilderness acreage should do so. As a senior citizen, I cannot enjoy climbing mountains but I am thinking of my descendants and those of my friends and fellow citizens.

On recent radio talk shows I have heard some uninformed citizens complain about "those eastern Congressmen concerned with the wilderness trying to tell us Nevadans what to do." Those Congressmen who want more wilderness for Nevada than what our Senators have introduced in their bills, come from the midwest and know they cannot rectify the mistakes in their states, such as Ohio. As I said before, you cannot take a developed area and put it into wilderness. When I look at a map of the U. S. that designates National Parks and wilderness areas, I am sick to see how Illinois

fared in this regard. There is just a little "green" down in the southeast corner of the state. The people in those states who have been crippled environmentally must journey, on the whole, to the west to see the beauties of nature. That is why individuals other than Nevadans are concerned about our requests for wilderness -- they have a stake in our result. We live in a very mobile society and always have but with advances in transportation it has become moreso.

Let us resolve to set aside appropriate acreage for wilderness and a national park, not just for us BUT for them too. There is no way that they can go back -- let it be ALL OF THE STATES FOR ALL OF THE CITIZENS -- let us not use a call for state's rights on this important issue -- do not let special interests such as mining and oil come in and dictate -- let us keep it pristine for all citizens of the United States.

Thank You.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH P. REID, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. REID. I am Kenneth Patrick Reid, and I am living in Las Vegas. I have also lived in Sparks and Fallon. I see today we were all quite concerned about our wilderness lands in Nevada. I am greatly relieved we all care, but what we have to agree upon is how much we want to care and how much we want to preserve our wilderness as wilderness.

As for me, I would like to see us all preserve as much wilderness as we can. Not only that, once we have agreed upon, say, a mere 1 percent of our State's land mass as wilderness, then we must agree to really preserve it as a wilderness.

What I am especially concerned about now is all the millions of hikers, tourists, and athletes these new wilderness lands are going to attract to Nevada now that we are proclaiming these lands as wilderness lands open to the general public. Why, just a few years ago our Mount Charleston area attracted thousands of visitors each year. Now more than a million and a half people visit the Mount Charleston area each year.

Such booms have already occurred in the past decades in the great Adirondack Preserve of New York State, the Yellowstone and Yosemite. I expect a similar boom will impact our new wilderness areas of Nevada, so let us now plan to protect our new wilderness areas wherever they may be. Let us keep Nevada wild.

Thank you very much.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF LYNN SURICK, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. SURICK. Senator Hecht, members of the committee. Thank you for taking your time to be here today. It is getting late, and I will be brief.

I am a 13-year resident.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me, you must identify yourself.

Ms. SURICK. I am Lynn Surick, and I am speaking as a private individual.

I am a 13-year resident of Nevada. I am also a critical care nurse, and I have worked here for 12 years. On my days off, I like to get away from work and forget my job, so I go on a hike. I have hiked in some beautiful areas in other States, and when I am in them I thank God these States have taken time to put these places aside for us people to get to them. They had foresight to save the most beautiful and significant areas of their State; the Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, and others, just to name a few.

I support the bill to protect 21 wilderness areas, 1.5 million acres and 2 percent of Nevada for wilderness area. We cannot all hike, but we cannot all be in the Olympics, either. We deserve this, and our generations after us deserve this, also. Later on we will have to explain to our children, if we have any grandchildren, and the rest of the American people who we did not save at least 2 percent, not just for the Nevadans but for all Americans.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF LORRI JACKSON, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. JACKSON. Senator Hecht and members of the committee, my name is Lorri Jackson, and I have lived in Nevada since 1968. I do reside in Las Vegas, and I am also speaking today as a concerned individual. It has been a long day, and I thank you again for the opportunity to address this issue. My statement is very brief, also.

Nevada is a wilderness State. Nevadans are proud of it, but it will not last that way forever. Our wilderness areas are full of history, beauty and recreational enjoyment. I enjoy skiing, hiking, and photography and strongly feel the need to protect our Nevada wilderness for present and future generations.

The time for area designation is now. However, I do not feel that Laxalt-Hecht wilderness bill will protect enough of the wilderness State that we live in, and I therefore cannot support this bill as written.

I suggest protection of a larger portion of Nevada's wilderness. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF CYNTHIA HUTH, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. HUTH. Hi. My name is Cynthia Huth, and I am a native Nevadan. I was born and raised here in Henderson, and I am also a very conservative Republican.

I do not belong to any wilderness or environmental organization. However, I am familiar with the different wilderness proposals, and I strongly feel that we should have more wilderness designated in the State of Nevada than are proposed by you, Senator Hecht and Vucanovich and Laxalt.

I have been following the wilderness issue for over a year now, and I am very disappointed in the way it has been made into a political issue and a miner and rancher versus environmentalist issue. This is not the issue at all.

The issue is that we do need wilderness. The land in Nevada is used in a multipurpose way. We have always been able to accommodate many different facets of society; ranching, mining, and the test site which is where I work, and others. The time has come, with an expanding population, increasing technological era to have a place that remains unspoiled by man.

These lands belong to all the people. People need to get away from our fast pace society, and the land must be preserved for future generations. We must not look only at our immediate goals and needs but have long-term goals, and the wilderness should be a part of those long-term goals.

As a Nevadan I tend to look at the proposed lands as belonging only to Nevadans, but this is not the case. The case is that it belongs to all citizens of the United States.

I have heard arguments that the handicapped and aged would not be able to enjoy these areas if they are designated as wilderness. It is absurd to think that we would be able to provide for all people in all age groups and under any circumstances. It is not being done now, and it never could be. I have spoken to many elderly people, as I am a registered nurse, about this issue, and they

agree with me that all these areas could not be utilized for everyone and should be protected by the Wilderness Act.

A few years ago when the Air Force illegally seized the mountains known as the Groom Range and when mining was actively taking place there, I do not recall any outcry like I have seen on this wilderness issue.

In closing, I want to reiterate that Nevada is one of the largest States in the Union and can certainly afford to have more wilderness designated than that by you and your colleague, Senator Laxalt.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF TOM DUNCAN, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Tom Duncan and I have been a resident of Las Vegas for approximately a third of my life. I do not represent any groups or organizations. I am just a concerned private citizen expressing my personal opinion.

I am opposed to Senate bill 722 as an extraordinarily unrealistic and conservative proposal of land running to the size of a few ranches in a State the vast size of 70-some odd million acres. I feel you should consider an acreage a little more competitive with other States in the West that have done already.

I believe it is our responsibility as governing adults here and human beings to take off our blinds and see that we must insure our future and the future of Nevada's fragile and irreplaceable wildlife that is also in jeopardy and which is also important. Once the fate of this land has been determined, it is gone forever as we know it.

Our responsibility is to protect it from those who without foresight might rape this land of its resources beyond our comprehension. Let us show some insight and protect us from ourselves and some possibly selfish financial interests in a typically uncertain future.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF GREG KENNEDY, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. KENNEDY. Senator Hecht and subcommittee, my name is Greg Kennedy, and I am a resident of Las Vegas.

These could be heroic times or these could be mundane times. We who are the caretakers of this small planet have power to save or destroy a few remaining wild areas. These in fact are wilderness areas which need our protection.

The wilderness nurtures us physically and psychologically. We must make wise choices concerning management of the Earth's unspoiled natural areas. Just 200 years ago our country was a vast wilderness full of potential. Those people that immigrated to it and the next generations have altered the environment to a basically unified landscape filled with roads and artifacts of 20th century man. In fact, in these years the entire world has quickly become filled with the same solutions to the basic problems of living.

The ancient diversity of cultures are now so similar that except for language one city is like another the world over. The world's agricultural technology uses only a handful of plant and animal species at the expense of hundreds of thousands of others. Our world is losing its diversity.

Loss of diversity is not critical as long as nothing changes. However, we all know that the world is constantly changing. The natural world has always made available to man food, implement, medicinal plants the like that have helped him adapt to a constantly changing environment. Thus, when man limits the diversity of the world's potential, limits are placed upon man's adaptability, adaptability that is crucial to survival.

We must let nature have places that are unimpeded, undeveloped, wild places full of potential. Then in the future our country will still have these places to use as sources for solutions to problems that are unforeseen. America is a very rich country, rich enough to afford to set aside many natural reserves held in trust; special places so that our children's children will be able to see what the world was like before the dominance of modern man upon the environment. Then they will be able to use this wilderness for inspiration, to learn one's place, and to learn from its natural diversity answers to solve future problems.

If we do this now, then America's future generations will look back to us today and they will thank us for our heroic foresight; but if we let this unique opportunity pass, they will accurately label us in small-minded, shortsighted terms. Let us not turn our backs upon the future. Please place in trust for America's future the largest portions of lands still wild.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

We will go right on to the next panel.

Mr. BEVINETTO. Panel 28. Dennis Glaze, Bob Furtek, James Mellor, Joan Mellor, Thorne Butler, Reed Whipple, and Michael Hoppes. And we will take panel 29 also—Poomas Rebane, Horse Dzjura, Anga Rebane, and George Hawes.

Are there any other witnesses who are on the witness list who have not testified and wish to testify?

[No response.]

Mr. BEVINETTO. If you are on the witness list and have not testified and wish to testify, please come on down now.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL HOPPES, BOULDER CITY, NV

Mr. HOPPES. Thank you, Senator Hecht. My name is Mike Hoppes and I live in Boulder City.

I support maximum wilderness. I would like to emphasize the value of preserving samples of Nevadan ecosystems. We should know and should be able to show future generations the biotic landscapes which exist in Nevada. The most obvious values are ascetic and educational. Curious, adventuresome and wise Nevadans support wilderness as living museums in which native flora and fauna can be preserved in sample communities as free from disturbance as possible and in something resembling primitive condition.

Most of our remaining samples of rare animal life are found in parks and wilderness areas, and they stand the best chance of surviving there. I doubt seriously that all of the significant ecosystems in Nevada have even been identified. As an experienced, well-traveled professional forester, I can say without reservation that all of the Nevadan plant and animal communities are fragile, that they are easily disturbed and in most cases difficult to recover.

We need to maintain scientific baseline data on undisturbed soils, plants and animals. As in that other frontier, space, we don't know yet where all of the benefits will be. Fully 50 percent of all pharmaceuticals have a natural component as their active ingredient, yet only 2 percent of plants have been analyzed. In Nevada, in addition to desert succulents, there are over 3,000 species of vascular plants. Which of these would we be willing to wipe off the face of the Earth forever? Would it be OK if the plants were merely beautiful?

A recent EPA study claims that 3,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat are lost each day to various forms of development. It turns out that the only frog known to have become extinct in the United States is the Las Vegas frog, gran fishery. It was endemic to Las Vegas Springs, which were destroyed as Las Vegas grew. Did this frog offer answers to problems of desert living, or did its body contain medicine? Maybe or maybe not; I do not know. But I do know that the infinite delight and wonder of hundreds of Las Vegas boys and girls which might have discovered this frog in a pool that was foregone forever and replaced at least in part by trashed out, sterile lots.

Have we not lost something valuable? A quick glance at the literature on Nevadan wildlife reveals extinct, endangered, and declining animals. On the endangered list is the gila monster, cougar, kit fox, desert kit fox, golden eagle, spotted bats, and the bighorn sheep. On the declining list are the burrowing owl and the prairie falcon. On the extinct list, besides the frog, is the emerald trout and the royal silver trout. This list, I can almost guarantee, is not complete.

In terms of the goals presented in the Endangered Species Act, habitat improvement is the decisive action in the preservation of threatened species. The establishment of wilderness areas is considered the best way to accomplish this. One hundred years ago or so the entire State was wilderness; now only 2 percent is being requested for permanent wilderness status. Only a desperate nation of cowering pessimists, unable to properly manage resources, would have so much contempt of natural wilderness to reject this small parcel of land forever for a few years' gain.

America is certainly greater and wiser.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF BOB FURTEK, NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. FURTEK. My name is Bob Furtek. I reside in North Las Vegas, and I speak as an individual. I have been a resident in the Las Vegas area for about 19 years.

I consider the Senate bill to be totally inadequate in acreage protected and also seriously weakens the Wilderness Act of 1984 by

authorizing the use of herbicides spraying the wilderness for noxious weeds, by mandating the use of mechanical equipment for grazing support even if such use did not occur in the past, and by mandating the Forest Service to permit use of motorized equipment and road construction for mining.

H.R. 3302 contains 14 wilderness areas totaling 939,000 acres and the Great Basin National Park for 174,000 acres. This acreage represents only 1.6 percent of Nevada's entire land area of 71 million acres. If I had to choose a bill, I would choose Seiberling's bill, H.R. 3302, of 1.5 million acres to give Nevada, the seventh-largest State in the Union, at least 2.1 percent of the land area.

Currently, the State tourism and economic development agencies are launching campaigns to attract business for rural Nevada. Both agencies are highlighting the beauty of Nevada lands as one of the State's main resources. Wilderness helps preserve these assets and attracts a variety of users.

At the present time, Nevadans have a unique opportunity to protect these wild, roadless, and beautiful areas which contain features found nowhere else.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. George, do you want to go next?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE HAWES, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. HAWES. Senator Hecht, you and your staff are certainly gluttons for punishment. I am G. Hoover Hawes, better known as George Hawes, from Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. At present, I am representing myself, although I belong to many local, State, and national organizations.

I served in the legislature as an assemblyman from White Pine County in 1951 and 1953. I am the father of the roadside park law instituted in 1951. I have served many years as a lobbyist for several organizations. I was an assistant lobbyist for Lou Bailey, representing the AFL-CIO in 1975 and 1977.

Senator Hecht, I arrived in Elko, Elko County, in June 1942. I have also lived in White Pine County, and in the county of Carson City. My first summer I worked with District Judge James Dysock from Elko as a hayman and cook on his ranch in Lemoille in the foothills of the Ruby Mountains. Later, I was a teacher in Elko, Wells, and East Ely.

I have always been struck by the majesty of our mountains, the clear air, the vast distances. I was reflecting on the counties that I have enjoyed and traveled. I have either fished or hunted in every county in Nevada. Now, after 44 years in Nevada, more and more am I impressed by the Nevada scenery, by Nevada's legacy that we must preserve.

Senator Hecht, the Federal Government controls about 87 percent of our land and airspace. We have Nellis Air Base. I better skip some of this. Nevada is the fastest growing State in the Nation. Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing cities in the Nation. Clark County probably is the fastest growing county in the Nation, certainly for our senior citizens.

Senator Hecht, you and Senator Laxalt and Congresswoman Vucanovich have an excellent bill, bill 722, but I think S. 722

should be enlarged and we should all be for Congressman Harry Reid's bill, H.R. 3302, at least. And, Senator Hecht, maybe we should be for the whole ball of wax, for what you term the "easterner's bill." One percent of our total area saved as a wilderness are for our children and our children's children, is that too much?

Congressman Baron killed the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County back in the fifties. Let us let the United States of America know that we should not be just noted for our great gambling potentialities, but also for the majesty of our mountains and the beauty of our wilderness areas.

Thank you, sir.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. George, I can point out you traveled a long time down here, and I allowed you to go on without putting in a written request because you are an old friend.

Mr. HAWES. I appreciate that very much.

Senator HECHT. Please go ahead.

STATEMENT OF JANE PERRY JONES, MOUNT CHARLESTON, NV

Ms. JONES. My name is Jane Perry Jones. I am a resident of Mount Charleston and I have just come from the Trust for Public Lands reception, which I would like to thank you, Senator Hecht, for helping make possible in acquiring an additional 1,000 acres of private land to be transferred over to the Forest Service. I would also like to thank you for the work you have done in regards to the land swap issue and recommending that Nevada not lose any Forest Service land but in fact gain some additional BLM land.

I would like to also thank you for the bill that you have before us recommending Nevada wilderness. I would ask, however, that you surpass Harry Reid in his designation of less than 1 million acres and that you go with a greater bill of over 1.5 million acres for Nevada wilderness.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. Wait just 1 second. Before I introduce or call on the next speaker, I would like to say that this man has been, that I know of, spent a quarter of a century as probably Nevada's top conservationist. I remember you in the Nevada Legislature 20 years ago, when you were up there trying to get us to do things, and you have probably devoted more time and effort and spent more of your own money than practically anybody I know.

Mr. Butler.

STATEMENT OF THORNE BUTLER, LAS VEGAS, NV

Mr. BUTLER. Thank you, Senator Hecht. That was very nice of you. I guess I am here to disagree with you slightly.

Senator HECHT. But I think it is very fitting that you are the last of nearly 500 witnesses around the State. I am happy you happen to be in that spot.

Mr. BUTLER. As a 20-year-plus resident of Nevada, a native westerner by birth, a lifetime Republican, my wife Katie and I would like to support the concept proposed in H.R. 3302. Wilderness preservation means not only maintenance of scenic beauty but the preservation of unique plants and animals who live in those areas.

As a 14-year member of the State board of health and environmental commission, I have heard over and over again the arguments used by the opponents of these wilderness proposals. Their arguments are snare of delusion, particularly economic mining is determined by world prices, not by control or restrictions on mining methods. With less than 2 percent of the State lands being proposed for wilderness, they have all been extensively examined by both physical and chemical geoexploration methods. If there were economically exploitable minerals in these areas, they would have been mined a long time ago.

Our family, as you know, are all avid skiers, and have utilized extensively both the Lee Canyon and Bowie Mountain Heliski operations. I would strongly disagree with Mr. Forrester and Mr. Bauer, who claim that their ski operations will be destroyed by H.R. 3302. The bill H.R. 3302 sponsors have correctly addressed the ski operations to assure their continued use.

During Mr. Seiberling's visit my wife spent the week following the Congressman and his staff while they were examining proposed wilderness areas. She recalls the issues as water rights, grazing rights, recreational use, et cetera, were addressed to protect those existing rights. H.R. 3302, as amended, has also addressed those issues and preserves the right of current users.

The tradition for wilderness preservation is part of a long national heritage dating back to that well-known Republican Teddy Roosevelt. Therefore, Kitty and I urge that you support the concepts being outlined in H.R. 3302. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Do give Mr. Butler a hand.

[Applause.]

Senator HECHT. Well, after about 500 witnesses and touring the State I do not know how many hundreds and hundreds of miles, I think we have certainly learned a lot about the issue. It is a very, very controversial issue and I think, as always, the public should have a right to speak out on it, and that was the reason for the statewide hearing. I now declare this hearing adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:27 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

[COMMITTEE NOTE.—Due to the voluminous nature of materials submitted for the record all additional statements and letters have been retained in subcommittee files.]

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